

SERMON NOTES

Sunday 17th July

sunnysidechurch

Lessons from Athens: Time to Choose

Bible passages Acts 17.29-end; Luke 9.18-27

Introduction

- Life contains lots of choices
- 'Therefore' (v29) introduces choice Paul giving Athenians

Therefore...Repent

- Repenting more than saying sorry – about turning away from sin and turning back to God
- Idea that we are sinners and need to repent is unpopular today

Resurrection as a choosing point

- Paul knew that resurrection would be hard for his audience to hear but while he was willing to adapt his approach, he never changed or diluted his message
- Response mixed as Paul expected but some did choose to believe in Jesus and follow him

Time to choose

- How or where did you hear about the God who is knowable in Jesus?
- What was the decision point for you?
- How might this help us share the good news of Jesus with others?

Conclusion

'Who do you say I am?' is the most important question we face and the answer will affect how we live.

Some Questions for Discussion

1. Who do the people around us say Jesus is, particularly those who do not yet know him?
2. Read Acts 17.16-34 but focus on 17.29-end. What do you notice?
3. What was the decision point for you in becoming a follower of Jesus?
4. Therefore...how has being a follower of Jesus affected your choices?
5. What might be the difficult things about the good news of who Jesus is for the people we meet?
6. Paul adapted his approach to his audience but not his message. What might it look like for us as individuals and a church to follow his example?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through this passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

J 'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?'
Peter answered, 'God's Messiah.'

Luke 9.27

Why not spend some time thanking God for who Jesus is and ask him to show you how you might make him known to the people you meet in what you say and do?

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