Paul's Sermon On Mars Hill

Ken Chapman · Acts 17:22–31

INTRODUCTION

- In Acts chapter 17, we have a beautiful story of what the Apostle Paul did one day while he was waiting.
- He's waiting for two of his traveling companions to join him. And while he is waiting, something remarkable happens.
- Paul, before that largely Gentile audience says, I want to introduce you to the unknown God. In other words, I want to tell you about a God that you don't know.

1 A Sermon That Had to Be Preached

- This is a sermon that had to be preached. Paul's spirit was stirred within him, and he just couldn't help but deliver this message.
- A Godly man who was stirred and motivated and moved by the things that were around him. That's lesson number one.
- That can happen to us spiritually, can't it? We hear that foul language, and at first we wince at it, but I've heard it so much now I don't even notice it.
- But here was Paul in this city, rife with idolatry, and his spirit was stirred.

2 He Taught the People From Where They Were

Acts 2

- If you compare Paul's sermon in Acts chapter 17 to Peter and the apostles' sermon in Acts chapter 2, you'll see some great differences.
- They all have the same conclusion. Jesus Christ, him crucified and resurrected.
- In Acts 17, Paul's sermon does not mention David, Prophet Joel, Abraham, or even the Old Covenant at all.
- It does no good to say, let's turn to Acts chapter 2. We have to start where they are.

3 Show Them God

Acts 11:20–24

- We are not trying to get them to join our social club.
- I need to do what Paul did and show them God.
- Some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.
- He didn't try to convert them to the Antioch church of Christ.

4 This Unknown God Was Actually Knowable

Acts 17:22–28

- The first thing Paul tells them in this sermon is that this unknown God was actually knowable.
- Therefore, the one whom you worship without knowing, him I proclaim to you.
- He not only tells them you should know him, but he says, in essence, you can know him.

5 The One God of Everything and Everybody

Acts 17:24–26

- The God that I serve is bigger in his singularity than the totality of all of your false gods.
- He says, My God made the world and everything in it.
- Not only is he the one God of everything, he says he's the one God of everybody.
- Paul says, God made everybody from one blood. All nations of the earth were made by this one God.

6 We Are His Offspring

Acts 17:28–29

- Since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the divine nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.
- If I am his offspring, if I've been made in his image, then I know something about God.
- The reason we can't take someone's life is because that person was made in the image of God.
- The fact that we can love and dream and hope and think tells us about a God who can love and dream and think.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **We live in a world that needs God. Let's be moved to introduce them to the God that they should know. And the God that we know and love.**

MY NOTES