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Central Congregational Church
“For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors”
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The HeArt of Conversation

Acts 17:16-34

Series: Joining Jesus on His Mission

Joining Jesus on His Mission

- ❖ Two Questions
 - What is Jesus up to?
 - How is he inviting me to join him?

- ❖ Five Practices
 - Seeking the kingdom.
 - Hearing from Jesus.
 - *Talking with people.*
 - Doing good.
 - Ministering through prayer.

Central Passage

Acts 17:17–18 (ESV) — 17 So [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. 18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him...

Central Thought: Joining Jesus on his mission involves an active engagement with the culture and the people around us that leads to thoughtful, faithful conversations.

The HeArt of Conversation: Paul in Athens

- ❖ Paul had Spirit-led situational awareness.

Acts 17:16 (ESV) — 16 Now while Paul was waiting for them [Timothy and Silas] at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

- ❖ Paul initiated conversations where he could.

Acts 17:17 (ESV) — 17 So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there.”

- ❖ Paul sought common ground in his conversations.

Acts 17:22–23 (ESV) — 22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.”

- ❖ Paul demonstrated cultural awareness.

Acts 17:28 (ESV) — 28 for “ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

- ❖ Paul focused on Jesus and his resurrection.

Acts 17:29–31 (ESV) — 29 Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. 30 The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”