

Sermon Discussion Guide Listening - Acts 17:16–34

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Starting with Compassion

“He was greatly distressed to see the city was full of idols.” – Acts 17:16

- How can we cultivate *compassion* instead of *anger* or *indifference* toward people who believe or live differently than we do?
- When was the last time you felt *distressed* because people were seeking something good but missing God?

Going Where People Are

“He reasoned... in the marketplace day by day.” – Acts 17:17

- Where are the “marketplaces” in your community—places where you could build relationships with people not like you?
- What keeps us from stepping outside our comfort zones?

Finding Points of Connection

“I even found an altar with this inscription: ‘To an unknown god.’” – Acts 17:23

- What are some shared beliefs, values, or concerns you can use to connect with others?
- How can we become better listeners to discover what matters to others?

Telling the Bigger Story

“The God who made the world and everything in it...” – Acts 17:24

- Paul starts with creation, not condemnation. Why is it important to begin with the big picture of God’s love and purpose?
- What are some ways we can improve at telling that story simply and clearly?

Inviting Change without Pressure

“Now he commands all people everywhere to repent.” – Acts 17:30

- What does the word “repent” mean to you? How would you explain it to someone outside the faith?
- What does it mean to “trust God with the results” in our conversations about faith?

Personal Reflection

- Think about someone in your life who is “not like you.” What step could you take to build or deepen that relationship?