

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Living in the Upside Down

Sunday, June 4, 2023

Scripture: **Acts 17:1-9**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

We all observe that there's something wrong with the world. Most of the world does not see things the way they really are. God's view of things is reality, irrespective of the misconceptions of millions of people who don't accept this reality. To counter the world's false views of reality, God's Word is true and honest, and it gives us an accurate picture of the way things really are. When believers share the gospel in their own communities and beyond, the truth of the gospel impacts the world and unites people under the lordship of Christ. **The world is turned upside down by reasoning from Scripture and reaching all kinds of people with the gospel.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:15; Luke 24:25-27; Colossians 1:21-22; Revelation 5:9-10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As Luke describes in today's passage, Paul went into the synagogue and he reasoned with the people from the Scriptures. What does it mean to reason from the Scriptures?
2. Discuss how the Christian faith is undergirded by reason. Secondly, discuss how worldly reason seeks to challenge the truth claims of the Christian faith. How can Christians effectively counter these challenges?
3. Discuss the myriad ways the world does not see things the way they really are. Secondly, discuss why people are drawn to false views of reality. What do you think they're seeking?
4. What are some ways that our Christian subculture is tempted to neglect the message of the gospel as it seeks to change people's hearts and minds? What are some pitfalls here?
5. When Paul was preaching in the synagogue, some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women. Why is this important? What were the implications at that time in that context? How is this relevant for today? What can we learn from Paul's example?
6. How is the church (both universal and local) doing with regard to reaching all kinds of people—not just those who look like us or belong to the same social class? What is church doing well in this regard? What are some ways the church needs to improve?
7. God is in the process of making things right, including our heart. Yet even as believers, our hearts can grow cold, becoming lazy and apathetic. Have you lost your communion with God? Do you sometimes think the Holy Spirit has lost His power in you? If so, why?