



HomeGroup Discussion Questions

Week 6: Oct 17-23

What stirs you up to take action? Maybe you're bothered by a need and can't help but address it. Maybe you're excited about an opportunity and can't help but seize it. This week, we're seeing how simply observing a culture and its ways can stir up a Spirit-filled man to open his mouth—both to address a great need and seize a God-given opportunity to share the gospel message.

MAIN TEXT: Acts 17:16-34

CONNECT

1. How was this past week for you? What was the highlight?
2. What stood out to you about the sermon this week?

LEARN

3. In verse 16, what stirred up Paul to take action, or, as the text says, what "provoked" his spirit?
4. Pastor Tom explained some of the values, beliefs, and practices of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers. How do these compare or contrast with the gospel?
5. Pastor Tom points out how Paul's message before the Areopagus (vv. 22-31) doesn't make any direct reference to the OT Scriptures. Even so, what do you see in Paul's words that reveal the truth of the gospel?
6. Think back to Pastor Thomas' sermon a few weeks ago from Acts 14 when Paul and Barnabas were in Lystra. How was Paul's gospel message there similar to what we read about here in Athens? Why do you think this is the case?

APPLY

7. Paul was deeply bothered by what he saw in Athens—a city "full of idols." When you look at our communities or culture today, what "provokes" your spirit within you (v. 16)?

8. Pastor Tom mentioned four major claims from this passage. Which of these is most significant to you and why?

- (1) When we share our faith with others in our biblically illiterate society (i.e., people aren't familiar with the Bible), we may need to tell a fuller sweep of the Bible before we get to the cross.
- (2) A cohesive, livable worldview begins with a robust theology and view of who God is.
- (3) In a pluralistic world of idols that we live in today, the gospel proclaims the exclusive sufficiency of Christ to save.
- (4) Whenever we share the gospel, the results will always be mixed, but the results are always in God's hands.

9. Pastor Tom asked, "What would it take for us to have a greater vision of our great God?" How would you answer that?

10. In last week's sermon, Paul "went in [to the synagogue], as was his custom, and...he reasoned with them from the Scriptures" (v. 2) in Thessalonica. This week, he is standing in Athens, quoting Greek authors to present the same gospel message about Jesus. What can we learn from the differences in Paul's methods?