

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of July 31st, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Let's Talk About Jesus! (Acts 17:16-34)

Guest Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- Fall's on the way! What's your end-of-summer tradition?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

God Gives Many Opportunities to Share Jesus (Acts 17:16-21)

- What about our culture provokes you? How do you typically respond?
- What's something that provoked you so much, to the point where you had to say something about it? Please share?
- Is there something bothering you, but you've been idling and waiting for something to happen? What are you waiting on?
- What are some idols that people put before God? What are the idols that you put before God?
- What do you lead with when talking to others about Jesus? An invite to church or group, similar interests, or
- What are the opportunities that God has given you to share Jesus with others?

Know Your Stuff! (Acts 17:22-28)

- How's your prayer/devotion life? How well do you know the Gospel? How can you improve?
- Seeking the truth isn't the same as finding the truth. What's the difference?
- What does our relationship with God have to do with sharing the Gospel?
- How do you think you come off when talking to others about Jesus?

Is there a different way you could do it?

- Do you really pay attention to the people around you? Are you actively listening, observing, and watching for opportunities to specifically share Jesus with them? Explain.

Make a Strong Appeal for Jesus (Acts 17:29-34)

- Have you ever invited someone to give their life to Jesus Christ, not just come to church or to join your group? Please share.
- The truth is: God has fixed a day on which He will judge the world, and it's the command of God for ALL people to repent and give their lives to Jesus. How comfortable are you with telling people this truth? How would you explain it to another believer who doesn't know how to talk about it? How would you say this to a non-believer?
- Have you ever been criticized for your belief in Jesus? Explain what happened and how you responded.
- How can we stay encouraged to share Jesus with others when they reject what we're saying?
- Based on your personality, how would you make a strong appeal for Jesus to someone?

Act On It

Encourage: So far in the Book of Acts, Paul and his crew have dealt with a lot of opposition as they've traveled to share the Gospel, and modern-day Christians can relate. You may be ignored or mocked or ridiculed for standing in your beliefs, and it's difficult. Paul was literally being chased, but that didn't stop him from doing what God stirred in his heart: Making Jesus known to those who needed the truth. Wherever he was, God gave Paul plenty of opportunities to share Christ, and he took them. And God does the same thing for us, but we have to take them. We have to step forward in action, but that's not all. We need to know what we're sharing, which we can only do when through our personal relationship with Jesus. We have to know the God we serve. Through this relationship, we learn how to engage others and how to share the truth that people seek. The Gospel is for

everyone. God's command is for everyone to repent and live for Jesus. People need to know this. Get ready to step forward and share it.

Ask: What provokes you to the point that you can't stand it anymore? What are you doing or going to do about it, and will it bring glory to the Lord? What opportunities to share Jesus are you willfully ignoring? How are you going to step forward in your devotion and relationship with the Lord? What are you doing to make sure you know your stuff when you're sharing the Gospel? Are you actually paying attention to the people around you - listening, asking questions, and making connections? Have you ever personally invited someone to give their life to Christ?

Challenge: God gives us opportunities to share Jesus all the time, everyday. Find a way to mention or show Jesus to someone else in your next encounter. Invite someone to know Jesus before asking them to come to church. The next time something provokes you, pray about it before you act. Choose a step forward to take in your devotion and relationship to Jesus (i.e. share Jesus with a co-worker, commit to 21 Days of Prayer in August, come to Night of Worship on August 3rd, come to Men's Night on August 17th, serve others more, be more generous, etc.).

Prayer Request and Prayer

God, thank you for this amazing message that we get to share with people. Thank you for commissioning us to make You known. We repent for doing things our own way and giving into things that have kept us from sharing the Gospel. Help us reset our rhythms and devotions. Stir us to step forward and do something bold for The Kingdom. Show us how we can talk about Jesus with others. Give us the words to speak boldly about Christ. God, open our eyes to all of the opportunities we have to share truth and speak life. Let us see them before we miss them. We know that you've called us to love people, and sharing the Gospel is a way that we can love them well. Use us as you need us, spend us as your currency. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of July 24th, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: An Intentional Response to Irrational Opposition (Acts 17:1-15)

Guest Speaker: Pastor Aaron Allison, CIL Church

Icebreaker

- What was your favorite breakfast cereal (hot or cold) as a child? Do they still make it today and does it still taste the same as it did when you were a kid?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

Intellectual Persuasion (Acts 17:1-4; 1 Peter 3:14-16)

- God has called us to use our minds and careful use of his scriptures. When confronted by a non-believer, how can you REASON with them and not ARGUE in order to persuade them?
- A weakness of this generation is that we judge someone not by what they say, but by whether we like them. That is why it is important to be relatable while conveying God's truth. How do you persuade non-believers while remaining relatable so they will listen?
- Getting angry at the world just because the world does what it does, doesn't do anyone any good. What situations can you think of where the world has made you angry? What could you do differently to keep from getting angry at the world?
- When in conflict, how does God want us to respond? How does 1 Peter 3:15-16 tell us to respond?
- What are some characteristics that Paul displayed when he was in the synagogue? Do these same characteristics apply to us today? How?
- Anger, oftentimes, is a secondary emotion. When you're angry, do you take a moment to try and figure out where it's coming from? What would that look like for you?

Irrational Opposition (Acts 17:5-13; 1 Peter 4:3-4)

- Even though we respond with gentleness and respect, we may not get it back. This is often inspired by the enemy who opposes the work of God. Describe a situation where you were met with anger when you spoke God's truth.
- What does it mean to respond in gentleness and respect? What would that look like for you to do, if someone was attacking you?
- It's hard to be a young Christian today, because of all the opposition out there today. We worship in a joyful church, but it's hard when we make a stand for Christ and are met with opposition, anger, and slander. How has being a Christian affected your relationships with your non-believing friends and relatives?
- Where are you seeing irrational opposition today and what are you doing about it?
- Are you acting as a Jew, Jason, Paul, Silas, a bystander, or as part of strategy? Why? Do you need to change anything?
- Read 1 Peter 4:3-4. Are you confident in your walk in Christ to change your behaviors, to say no, or to modify your behavior. Where are you still falling into sin? How do you do the right thing when you're surrounded by the old thing?

Intentional Response (Acts 17:14-15; Matthew 28:18-20)

- How does it make you feel, knowing that God has intentionally placed you to have an intentional response to irrational opposition in this world? Do you feel like you're able to make a difference? Why or why not?
- You are not just filling a chair in the auditorium or a part of the viewer count online. How can you use the power that God has given you to use every day to serve him and preach His truth?
- Our church is training the next generation. We disciple the next generation, so they can give an intentional response to irrational opposition. We equip our next generation to make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of

the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that God has commanded. YOU are gifted and strategically placed by God to be able to help with this mission. What Dream Team, or other opportunity, can you get involved with to help train our next generation?

- As a group, take a moment to discuss different kinds of intentional responses. Keep in mind, they can range from things you would give at home to participating in an international mission trip.
- Where do you need to step up and be a part of an intentional response?

Act On It

Encourage: As Pastor Aaron shared with us in this message, right now, we're in the middle of a season of change. Humanity is changing and as a result, culture is changing as well. And as culture changes, the Church needs to change as well, but our change needs to be aligned in Christ. God calls us to be His light in the world, which we can only do when we align our minds to Christ and the truth of scripture. Be willing to be different and be ready to respond, with gentleness and respect, to the opposition that comes with being different. People won't understand the change in you, and that's okay. What matters is what you're going to do with your changed life. Embrace how God has positioned you to use you to bring His light into the world, don't be hidden. In a world of irrational opposition, use your Spirit-led intellectual persuasion to lead others to an intentional response in Christ.

Ask: What or who is influencing your life right now, and what has made you trust this source? How have you been responding to what's happening in the world? Would God like the way you've been responding? How do you think He'd want you to respond? How is He prompting you to respond? God is very intentional in the way He places us - How can you use your current placement to bring glory to God? What's one way that you can help train the next generation?

Challenge: Meditate on the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5. What would it look like to exhibit them in your life? Take one thing from the message or discussion that you're going to intentionally work on this week and make a plan. Share it with the group the next time you meet. The next time you're prompted to give an irrational response, pause, capture it, and be intentional about making it a response that glorifies the Lord. Start prepping to participate in the 21 Days of Prayer coming up August 1st through August 21st. Men, you have a great chance to become part of the strategy, and visit lifepointchurch.tv/events to register for Men's Night on August 17th!

Prayer Request and Prayer

Father, we thank You for being our true source of truth. Thank You for being our anchor in a world that tries to sink us. Lord, we know that you see all of the irrational opposition in our world, and we're thankful that You've placed and equipped us to respond to it. Give us the boldness to be different, the courage to stand up in knowing Your truth and promises. Protect our hearts when we face criticism. Grow in us a spirit of gentleness and respect so that our responses lead people to faith. May we always find peace and comfort in knowing and sharing that Your way is the only way. Move us into action. Help us see that where you have us right now in our lives, it is intentional. Use us as you need us. We don't want to be just an audience of Christ, we want to be a part of the production. Thank You for the opportunities to share Your love with others that we know are on the way. We welcome them. Amen.