



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Mission Adventure Series, Lesson 57

Lesson Title: There is But One God

Take Home Point: Help others meet Jesus.

Warm-Up:

Imagine you have always suffered from poor vision – even with glasses or contacts everything is fuzzy during the day and you can hardly see at night. You can't drive or read or enjoy visual delights. Then a relative tells you of someone who can help you with a new procedure. Desperate, you take a chance and go to the doctor to have it done. The results are miraculous! You can see clearly for the first time, and it is wonderful! You truly appreciate the sights you could never take in before. You are so grateful to the doctor who was able to provide you with the fantastic gift of sight. Now also imagine you have family and friends who suffer from the same malady. Do you tell them about your doctor and the procedure, or keep it to yourself? What do you think?

Read: Acts 17:15-34

Observation (What happened?):

Why did the Athenians bring Paul into the Areopagus?

What responses did Paul get to the Good News he presented them?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why did Paul start his talk with an explanation of who God is?

Why do you think Athens might have been a difficult place for people to accept the gospel?

Insight:

It is interesting that Paul used a different approach to presenting the gospel in Athens. One of God's miracles is that he has as many ways of reaching people with the saving truth of Jesus as there are people. Our tendency is to limit God in how the gospel must be presented, even though we know it is God's work in the heart that turns someone to him. But more than our words, it is the truth of his word powered by the Holy Spirit that convicts of sin. For example, many people accept the gift of life from Jesus only by reading the Bible. Think of that! Men who left this Earth 2,000 years ago still witness! So do others who wrote during the course of those two millennia. Today, our daily attitudes and actions witness as much as our words. Of course, just like Paul in Athens, we do need to be prepared to speak clearly, connecting God's truth and gracious redemption as our basis. But our greatest weapon in the witness arsenal is prayer that those who need Jesus will see him in whatever way God chooses. How much do you think Paul prayed over the people of Athens?

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How much time do you spend praying for those around you who need Jesus around you?

How can you use activities or events in our culture to speak the Good News to others?

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