

## Sermon Topic: **He Reasoned With Them**

Sermon Text: Acts 17-18

### Introduction

How can we learn from Paul the Apostle to better share our faith within the framework of our culture?

#### **A. Career**

Paul – Not pastor, not theology trained

- Tent maker – working full time in the market place.
- Market place is our sphere of influence
- Paul was just like us, working in the marketplace to make a living.
- Paul went in search for his audience – so he reasoned with both Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue and in the market place.

#### **B. Cities**

- Sought to travel through cities (Acts 17:1)
- Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 17 & 18)
- Paul wanted to reach as many people as possible. He went into the cities and to where the people were. He went into the synagogue of the cities because there was where the Jews were. Paul went where the people were.
- That was Paul's method. He felt that it was better to go through cities instead of villages

#### **C. Custom**

- In every city that Paul went to, it was his custom to go to the synagogue. Because that is where the Jews and Greeks were. He knew that it would be the best way to carry out his mission.
- He reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews.

#### **D. Consistent**

- Paul was very consistent, persistent.
- 3 Sabbath days he reasoned with them from Scriptures in the synagogues and in the market place.
- Paul was not an Easter or Christmas Christian, he went regularly at the synagogue and marketplace to reason with the people there.

#### **E. Conviction**

- Paul shared the Gospel with conviction, confidence and tenacity. He was convinced that this Jesus died for them, rose from the grave, seated at the right hand of the Father and will come again.
- He reasoned from Scripture. He explained and proved that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.
- We may lack the confidence to share, scared of people asking us difficult questions and unable to answer.
- However, we must not give up trying. It is not our task to convert someone, leave it to God to convert.

#### **F. Coherent**

- To be coherent, we have to be consistent and connected to the person we are reaching out to.
- Reason – logical, sound, reasonable, rational.
- Paul was clear and lucid in his delivery. The people were persuaded and put their faith in Jesus.

### **G. Criticism**

- Paul faced criticism, it is inevitable.
- Take comfort in the Holy Spirit.
- When we share the Gospel, we will face criticism. But don't give up, hang in there and push through because our Comforter is on the way.

### **H. Comforter**

- The Holy Spirit is at work in the midst of persecution and criticism.
- No weapon formed against us shall prosper since God is with us.

### **I. Conversion**

- Paul's resilience and persistence paid off.
- When one in the household is saved, the entire household is saved.

### **Questions For Reflection & Sharing**

1. **Career** – Where has God placed you? Where is your sphere of influence? Why do you think God put you there?
2. **Cities** – Where can you go to share the Good News? Think of mission trips externally. But also think of local community outreach.
3. **Custom** - We cannot be accustomed to share the Gospel wherever we go unless we are trained and encouraged to do so as a community. What evangelistic training can we pick up to equip ourselves in 2019?
4. **Consistent** - Be consistent, don't give up. Will you make it your second nature to share Christ? How will you look out for opportunity daily?
5. **Conviction** – What can you do to deepen your conviction in Christ so that you can be ready to reason with others?
6. **Coherent** – Imagine you are gonna have a conversation with someone about Jesus. What will you present to him/her coherently?
7. **Criticism & Comforter** – Don't be discouraged with the habit of witnessing. Whenever there is an accuser, there is an Advocate who comforts you.
8. **Conversion** - The harvest belongs to the Lord. However, He is looking for partners to come alongside Him. Will you be willing to obey and step up?