

**Message Reflection Questions**  
*Improvise: Participating with the Spirit of God*  
*Engaging Relationships*  
*June 19, 2022*

In what ways is the American Church “not in Kansas anymore?” What’s different? What doesn’t work anymore? What needs to change? How do you feel about all that?

Read Acts 17:16-31. What are your biggest take-aways?

- What comforts you?
- What convicts you?
- What puzzles you?
- How would the speech go if you were speaking the people who live in your neighborhood? How about at work, school, kid’s activities, etc.?

What is your most comfortable way to be a witness of God’s redemptive story?

Paul quoted their poets. Who could you quote in our time that would connect with people and communicate biblical truth?

What did you think about the 500-year “rummage sale” concept? Did anything surprise you? Would you agree that we are in a major shift in western culture and the Church is experiencing that shift? Why or why not? How would you describe what followers of Jesus are facing in our time and place?

How do you feel about the three things that tend to happen during the 500-year rummage sale? Do you see any of this happening? Do you agree? Why or why not? They were:

- New and vibrant forms of Christianity emerge.
- Scripture is re-engaged offering new insights and a way to shed unhelpful structures and practices for a better and less ossified expression of itself.
- Massive growth begins to take place.

How would you feel being called a “babbler” like Paul? Reminder: It wasn’t because they didn’t understand him. This was actually a derogatory term that literally means “seed-picker” or “scrap-picker.” The idea is that Paul is not dealing with the whole growing plant of human knowledge but instead he’s like a bird picking up the seeds or the scrapes of knowledge. Essentially, he’s a foreigner advocating old ideas that are no longer relevant or important. He’s out of date and out of touch and therefore Paul has no real authority to be debating these things.

The Areopagus (renamed Mars Hill by the Romans) is where debates and legal proceedings took place (someone could actually be put on trial there for advocating false ideas and if found guilty, punished). This was much more than a simple debate. It’s a dangerous situation for Paul and he faces two challenges: first, he’s viewed as somewhat ignorant and out of touch and second, he’s seen as an instigator of strange ideas. Essentially, Paul is a Christian who is viewed as ignorant, irrelevant, and dangerous. **This is new information for some? Does it add, intensify, or change the way you’ve viewed it in the past?**

Sean shared three lessons we can learn from Paul. Which is something that could be helpful to you if you “lean into it” more.

- He practiced the power of observation.
- He practiced the power of observation and Second, he practiced power of invitation.
- He loved people.

How are the following biblical truths helpful for you?

- God is intentional in his transcendence.
- He is powerful in his immanence.