

On Mars Hill
Acts 17:16-34

Review:

1. Evangelism begins with listening to the people around us, learning about their culture and making an honest effort to understand their beliefs.
2. We can then begin to identify points of contact between what they already believe and the truth of the gospel, perhaps even pointing out inconsistencies within their belief systems.
3. Evangelism always relies on the authority of the Word of God, and always points to the Person and Work of Jesus

Reflect:

1. Jimmy Scroggins describes three ways that people can respond to the “Three Circles” evangelistic tool: a “red light,” indicating no interest; a “yellow light,” indicating a willingness to have further gospel conversations; or a “green light,” indicating a desire to follow Jesus. How are these three responses similar to the ways the Athenians reacted to Paul’s preaching, according to Acts 17:32-24?

Go further: Read Mark 4:1-20

1. According to verse 1, where did Jesus have to go to teach the great multitude? Why do you think he had to do this?
2. What action does Jesus describe in verse 3?
3. In verse four, where does the seed fall? What happened to it?
4. In verse five, where does the seed fall? What did it do and why?
5. What does the sun do to the seed in verse 6 and why?
6. In verse seven, where does the seed fall? What happened to it? What kind of crop did it produce?
7. In verse eight, where does the seed fall? What happened to it? What kind of crop did it produce?
8. Who does Jesus tell to hear what He is saying?
9. In verse 11, what does Jesus say has been given to His followers?
10. In contrast, what do those who are “outside” receive?
11. Jesus quotes from Isaiah chapter 6 in verse 12. What reason does this verse give for Jesus teaching “outsiders” in parables?
12. According to verse 14, what is the seed?
13. What does verse 15 say happens to the Word in the minds of people who are like soil beside the road?
14. In verse 16, how do those who are like rocky places receive the Word?
15. What do these people do in the face of affliction or persecution? Why do they behave this way?
16. Verses 18 and 19 describe the people who are like soil covered with thorns. What three things do these thorns represent? What happens to the Word sown in their lives?
17. In what two ways do the people who are like good soil respond to the Word? What is the result?

Summary and Application:

1. Compare the different responses of Paul's listeners on Mars Hill to the four types of soil Jesus describes. What similarities do you find?
2. How does this parable encourage you to have gospel conversations?
3. Jesus says that those who receive the Word bear fruit. Given that the seed in the parable represents God's Word, what kind of fruit do you think God is calling Christians to bear?