

DEAL BREAKERS

2. A Convenient Truth?

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Acts 17.16-34

30 *In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.'*

- Paul was 'greatly distressed' by the extent of idol worshipping and negative spirituality in the Athenian culture. Yet he still engaged with them, starting where they were, complimenting them for being religious and quoting their own poets and philosophers. Do we engage in the same way with our own culture, or do we keep our Christianity separate and to ourselves?
- Philip talked about the external and internal reasons for faith – how it makes sense when we look at creation, and how it feels right on the inside. What has your experience been of these two things? Do you think everyone can identify with these reasons, or is it restricted to just religious types?
- v31. '*he has given proof to everyone*'. Are you aware of the proofs (convincing grounds for belief) for resurrection and the Christian faith? If so, what are some of them? Is it worthwhile knowing more about the rational basis for Christianity – or is it better to simply ask people to take it on faith?
- v31. '*he will judge the world with justice*'. How do you feel about the idea of God judging the world? Do we talk enough about judgement - is it a message we feel comfortable sharing? Does the idea of God's coming judgement on people motivate you to share your faith with others, or do you not really think about it?

Big Idea: 'Christian faith is the result of what we see makes sense, what we feel is right and what we become convinced is true.'

Split down into twos and threes and pray for each other. Pray for the wisdom, courage and sensitivity to share your faith in a culture that can be hostile and resistant. Pray for opportunities to tell your story to others, just as Paul was given opportunity. Pray specifically for one or two people close to you – friends, neighbours, colleagues – who need to hear this message. Pray for opportunities to draw them into this group and to Metro.

Further reading – 'Letters from a Skeptic' Greg Boyd