



The Acts of the Spirit

TURNING TO THE GENTILES

ACTS 14:8-23

"THE GODS"

MAY 12, 2024

DISCUSSION

Expand Your Awareness

Pastor Joey encourages us this week about the importance of "not just talking, but communicating" the Gospel.

- What do you think that phrase means, and why is it important?
- Why is "talking" so easy but "communicating" so hard?
- Regarding spiritual realities, what impact does merely "talking at" people usually have? Why?
- What do you see are the major hindrance to us "communicating" the gospel effectively in our present age?

Extract The Truth

Let's review the text from this week's sermon and investigate how we can understand and apply this principle.

Read: Acts 14:8-23

- What jumped out to you from the text?
- Every missionary, whether foreign or domestic, will tell you that their primary job is to understand the culture of the people they are called to serve so they can contextualize the Gospel.
- If you have extra time, check out this [article](#) defining "contextualization" from Pastor Tim Keller. He defines contextualization as



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: you do not need to ask every question but can select the best ones for your group dynamic.



ACTS 14:8-23

“Contextualization is not giving people what they want to hear. It is giving them what God says (that they may not want to hear!) but embodied in cultural dimensions to which they can relate, and argued for in terms they can understand and on the basis of things they already believe.”

- What can we learn from this text about why contextualization is so important?
- Pastor Joey challenged us to take responsibility to be the ones who communicate better, not demand others listen better. Do you agree with that challenge? Why or why not?
- What can we—in an increasingly secular age—take away from and apply from this text?

Experience Transformation

We are ALWAYS reliant on the Holy Spirit when we share the Gospel, but God does allow us stewardship and participation in communicating the Gospel to the lost. As far as it is in our control, we should seek to become the most effective communicators of the Gospel to remove as many barriers as possible.

To do that, we must master the basics of communication, which are:

- Know/understand your topic
- Know/understand your audience
- Build a bridge between the two
- Do you think these three principles apply to effective Gospel communication in our secular age? Why or why not?
- Which one do you feel strongest in and why?
- Which one do you feel is your weakest and why?
- For most people today, knowing our audience (our non-believing neighbors) is our biggest challenge. Why is that, and what can we do to build genuine relationships?
- What is God prompting you personally to do to become a more faithful steward and communicator of the Gospel in your everyday life?

Note: If you feel God is stirring you to take seriously the command to make disciples by sharing your faith, consider joining a Life2Life group. These groups gather to learn how to effectively and relationally share their faith in everyday life. So far, many people have gone through these groups and have loved them. If you would like more information, please reach out to Jeff at jeff@faithchurchindy.com.

Prayer: Pray for one another's needs and for the missionaries at Faith Church.