

Scripture: Acts 2:37-41; 17:32-34

Change is often times difficult and almost always inevitable.

We must change our methods without changing the message.

"We are entering a new era in which there is not only no social benefit to being Christian, but an actual social cost. In many places, culture is becoming increasingly hostile toward faith, and beliefs in God, truth, sin, and the afterlife are disappearing in more and more people. Now, culture is producing people for whom Christianity is not only offensive, but incomprehensible. Church leaders must find new ways to reach people who won't even think about coming to church or believing Christianity's most basic concepts. And we must find ways of churching and forming people as Christians in the midst of a very different culture." -Tim Keller, How to Reach the West Again

"For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings." -1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Jesus is still the ultimate solution to every person's ultimate problem.

Acts 2:37-41

Peter's sermon from 2:14-36

- The Spirit has come in the ministry of Jesus (14-24)
- The Resurrection of Jesus proves He is the prophesied heir of David (25-32)

- Jesus poured out the Spirit when He ascended into heaven (33-36)

Peter's sermon was given to a prepared audience. They shared belief in:

1. The same God
2. The validity of the Scriptures
3. The standard of morality
4. The coming Messiah

Thousands believed.

Acts 17:32-34

Acts 17:16-21

Paul's speech from 17:22-31

- Affirmed their religious fervor (22-23)
- Regarding God (24-29)
 - He created the earth but does not reside in buildings (24)
 - He created man but does not need man (25)
 - He is sovereign over everything (26)
 - He put in every man a yearning for God (27)
 - He is the source of true life for man (28-29)
- God requires repentance (30)
- God will hold people accountable (31)

Paul's speech was given to an unprepared audience. They did not share belief in:

1. The same God
2. The validity of the Scriptures
3. The standard of morality
4. The need for a Messiah

Some mocked

Some wanted to investigate

Some believed

Discussion Questions:

1. What has been one of the most challenging changes you've made in your lifetime? What has been one of the most rewarding changes you've made?
2. In what ways do you think the church has changed for the better? In what ways do you think the church has changed for the worse?
3. What do you think is at stake if the church doesn't change the way she carries out the mission?
4. What do you hope to gain out of this series? How do you want to be changed by God?