

SESSION FOUR: MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE—BUT DON'T LEAVE THEM THERE!

ACTS 17:16–18:17

CENTRAL FOCUS

“Meet people where they are” comes to us as an axiom of good communication. Yet, reaching out with the Gospel, the church does not leave people in sin and death but brings them Christ and life.

OBJECTIVES

That participants, led by the Holy Spirit working through God's Word, will

1. tell the rest of the story of Paul's second missionary journey;
2. suggest ways in which the church in its Gospel outreach can meet people where they are, yet not leave them there; and
3. determine to do just that, in Jesus' name.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, give Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from Him alone. Help us to meet others where they are, yet never leave them there. Guide us as we reach out. Cause us to point to the hatefulness of sin in the real lives of people, yet always convey the warmth of a loving touch. Lead us constantly to direct people to Your crucified and risen Son, Jesus, who is their Savior and ours. Amen.

QUESTIONS

1. If Paul was not selling out, then what was he doing? Why is this speech so different from others in Acts?
2. Is it good for the church today to parallel what Paul did in Athens? Why or why not?
3. Can our difficulties in proclaiming the Gospel become ways in which the Lord meets us? How does this compare with the Lord's meeting Paul where he was?
4. How did the Lord take Paul on from where he was? Does He treat us likewise?
5. Considering what you have learned in this session, how can we meet people where they are, but not leave them there?