

Sermon Text Discussion 3/25/18

Giving the Gospel

Acts 26

By Drew Hunter

Overview

This text is about evangelism it is a former skeptic speaking to skeptics. We can learn from Paul, what he says, how he says it, and what actually motivates him to share the gospel like this. The outline we'll follow:

1. Listen to Paul
 - a.
 - b. Listen to Paul's tone (V. 1-3)
 - c. Listen to Paul's past (V. 4-11)
 - d. Listen to Paul's conversion (V. 12-15)
 - e. Listen to Paul's mission (V. 16-21)
 - f. Listen to Paul's message (V. 22-23)
 - g. Listen to Paul's appeal (V. 24-27)
 - h. Listen to Paul's hope (V. 28-29)
- 2.
3. Learn from Paul
 - a.
 - b. Embrace your mission
 - c. Speak with respect (V. 25)
 - d. Let people know you remember what it is like to not believe (V. 4-11)
 - e. Share your story of coming to Christ (V. 12-18)
 - f. Know the gospel and be ready to share it (V. 22-23)
 - g. Be prepared for people to think you're crazy (V. 24)
 - h. Have confidence in the reasonableness of trusting Christ (V. 25-27)
 - i. Be open about your desire for people to know Christ (V. 28-29)
 - j. Love people enough to pray for and share Christ with them (V. 29)

Quotations

Our culture is shifting from a culture of Agrippas to a culture of Festuses. I mean people used to at least understand the Christian teaching about one true God, the nature of sin, the idea of a savior who died for our sins, and so forth. But now people don't grow up hearing these categories. It's now a post-Christendom culture, which means that we can't assume people have any idea about the basic categories that Christians believe. Drew Hunter

"I've always said that I don't respect people who don't proselytize. I don't respect that at all. If you believe that there's a heaven and a hell, and people could be going to hell or not getting eternal life, and you think that it's not really worth telling them this because it would make it socially awkward—and atheists who think people

shouldn't proselytize and who say just leave me alone and keep your religion to yourself—how much do you have to hate somebody to not proselytize? How much do you have to hate somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?" Penn Jillette

Understanding & Application

1. What are the implications from Drew's quote above as it relates to sharing the gospel today? What are the differences between Agrippa and Festus? Can you think of anyone in your life who fits into one of these two categories?
2. Why was Paul grateful for this moment to stand in front of Agrippa?
3. How does Paul respond to Festus' criticism? What does this teach us?
4. Why was it important that Paul was an "insider", a Pharisee?
5. Verse 18 gives us a mini-theology of conversion. 5 steps are mentioned; explain these steps.
6. Of the nine principles listed above under the heading of "Learning from Paul", which of these comes easiest to you? Which is the hardest for you? How can you get better at this? Is there anyone in your life you can encourage in any of these areas?