

## Acts of Jesus, Lesson 34: Mars Hill

This morning we're going to be taking it verse by verse and pursuing multiple themes.

### **Let's just jump into it:**

**V. 16** – Athens in Paul's day was known as the Intellectual Center of the World, home to the great thinkers like Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato.

Since man apart from God cannot think, Athens was full some of the most crazy ideas and practices.

---

### **Rom. 1:21-23**

This city was the poster child for man thinking apart from God and was full of idols.

An ancient historian wrote a 6-volume set on the beliefs of Athenians, but Luke here sums it up in 4 words "given over to idols."

At one time there was estimated to be 30K idols in the city and it was said, **"it is easier to find a god than a man in Athens."**

---

**V. 17** – Interesting: Paul's there by himself – no back up – he just wades off into them.

The world needs and God is looking for believers who will just wade off into whatever situation they find themselves with the truth.

They will find out how powerful God and His message really is.

---

**V. 18** – These guys who confront Paul were from 2 very different trains of thought:

Epicureans == were in essence atheists who saw people as no different than animals: no afterlife, this life is all we have --- So indulge yourself!!

== "**Let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die**"

Stoics == believed in gillions of gods, so much so that they were fatalists.

== "**Whatever will be will be...you can't change the gods or their will.**"

== "**Grin and bear it**"

Both of these groups call Paul a "Babbler" which would be somewhat equivalent to calling him an idiot in our day.

---

The Greek word literally meant "seed picker" referring to a sparrow that would hop around and pick up this and that.

It was a slam on Paul's teachings saying that he just picked up stuff from here and there and threw it together into some form of belief system.

Interesting accusation from a people with 30K gods in their city!!! They were the seed pickers!!!

---

## Acts of Jesus, Lesson 34: Mars Hill

Today we live in a society of seed pickers – very spiritual, but they are choosing their beliefs sort of buffet style from a gillion philosophies out there.

---

It is amazing how similar our society and the Greek society of that day are:

1. They enjoyed the blessings of political freedom and democracy.
  2. They thought of themselves as intelligent, educated and very religious.
  3. They were accepting of all kinds of beliefs so long as the belief did not break the cardinal rule of TOLERANCE.
- 

Tolerance is tolerant so long as you don't claim to know anything for certain.

Tolerance is the gate keeper that keeps people from finding the way out.

### **VV.19-23**

"Unknown" == Greek word Agnosto which where we get our word "agnostic" from which means unknown or without knowledge.

A Good name for not only the agnostics in our society but also pretty much every person without Christ in our society.

Theirs is a life much like the city of Athens full of gods but never full enough---always willing to let another in if they think it will help---not really knowing what is right.

---

Always window shopping in the marketplace of truth but never actually buying anything!

**V.24a** – He is the God who created all things

- Interesting that he starts there to tell them about God.
- Evolution strikes at the very roots of the Gospel. It's not a benign philosophy.

**V. 24b** – He cannot be contained in any building (all these are contrary any notion they had of a god)

---

**V. 25a** – He needs nothing from us

- All their gods were dependent on them for their food and drink.

**v. 25b** – He is the giver of life to everything. Our world needs to know our God! Will you be courageous enough to tell them?

---