

## “The Object of True Worship”

*New Day Church*

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*Acts 17:16-34*

**Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.**

### **Message Summary**

Paul was in the middle of his 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey. He had been to Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea. He found trouble in all three places. After being run out of town in all three places, the brothers sent Paul to Athens. While he was in the city “waiting” for Silas and Timothy he discovered a city full of people, culture, and idols. “Athens was known the world over for its magnificent art and architecture. The art, however, characteristically portrayed the exploits of the various gods and goddesses of the Greek pantheon, and most of the impressive buildings were temples to the pagan gods.”<sup>1</sup> Therefore, Paul found himself in a sea of idol-worshippers.

Paul’s heart was grieved because the Athenians were drawn to worship something other than the rightful object of worship. As he preached in the synagogue and the marketplace everyday, he gathered some who were interested in his message. Some, however, thought Paul was a “babbling” while others thought he preached “foreign divinities” all because he preached about Jesus and the resurrection. So the Athenians did what was normal for that day, they invited Paul to the Areopagus, “the hill of Mars,” and they asked him to present his case to all those who would listen.

The sermon that followed focused on the object of true worship – God Himself. As Paul evaluated the religious condition of those present he shared with them their need to worship the One True God. The idols in their city were not worthy of worship. Paul’s sermon reminds us that humans are worshiping creatures, however, sin caused us to worship the creation rather than the Creator. This worship is quite perverted. We are prone to worship people, music, the preacher, the worship leader, our houses, money, children, or something altogether different. But none of these things deserve our worship. Only Jesus Christ is deserving of worship because of who He is and what He has done; He is the One True God.

It was said during the message that biblical worship is the full-life response – head, heart, and hands – to who God is and what He has done. As you prepare to gather with your Missional Community evaluate your heart of worship. Does this definition of worship describe your life? Or are you worshiping the creation rather than the Creator? Does your life reflect a life of worship that involves your head, heart, and hands? This can be seen by how we allow the Gospel to speak to all aspects of our lives. If worship involves our lives outside of Sunday morning worship gatherings then how does what we believe about the Gospel affect our worship? The video titled Gospel-Motivated Living will address these areas of our lives. Pray that God will work in your heart as you seek to worship Jesus everyday. He is the only object worthy of worship!

### **Message Outline**

Jesus alone is worthy of your worship because...

1. He is the Unchallenged God. (16-21)
2. He is the Knowable God. (22-23)
3. He is the Creator God. (24-25)
4. He is the Sovereign God. (26-29)
5. He is the Savior God. (30-34)

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<sup>1</sup> Polhill, J. B. (1992). *Acts* (Vol. 26, p. 366). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

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## Group Discussion (video application)

Watch the video titled “Gospel-Motivated Living.” Use the Listening Guide below as you watch the video and then spend some time making application by answering the following questions as a group.

Matthew 15:1ff

Proverbs 4:23

What we \_\_\_\_\_ produces what we \_\_\_\_\_.

### Key Questions:

1. Who God \_\_\_\_\_?
2. What He has \_\_\_\_\_?
3. Who we are in \_\_\_\_\_?

There’s nothing wrong with \_\_\_\_\_ fruit.

The \_\_\_\_\_ of your life is revealing the \_\_\_\_\_ of your faith.

\_\_\_\_\_ is turning away from the God we \_\_\_\_\_ in to the true God \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ.

Repentance is a change of your \_\_\_\_\_.

Let’s stop thinking about how to change \_\_\_\_\_ and start addressing what people \_\_\_\_\_.

### Questions for reflection:

1. Where have we been more prone to emphasize behavior modification as opposed to faith transformation – trying to change the fruit and failing to get to the root of what we believe?
2. What do you think it will take to stop just looking at fruit and start moving towards the root of faith?
3. One of you in the group talk about something that has been an ongoing area of struggle in your life. Have the group walk you through asking the questions about what you believe about who God is, what He’s done through Jesus for you, who you are in light of what He’s done, and how you can respond to this area of struggle in light of these truths.

## Weekly Prayer Focus

- **Church:**  
Development of Missional Communities.
- **Local:**  
Engaging people in our neighborhoods.
- **Global:**  
Haiti, March 8-15, 2015 (Zach Hinote, Josh Nelson, Caleb)  
S.E.A., April 6-18, 2015 (William Whaley, David Ellis)  
North Dakota, June 7-20, 2015