

“Preaching Jesus and the Resurrection”

Sermon Notes

□ **Never underestimate the power of an empty tomb**

**The resurrection of Jesus Christ...*

1. ..._____ people (vv.16-21)

2. ..._____ people (vv.22-31)

3. ..._____ people (vv.32-34)

**Next Week: Luke 12:49-53 - “Do You Think That I Have Come to Give
Peace on Earth?”**

MEFC Community Group Study Questions
For the Week of April 1st – 7th

Getting Started

1. Do you or your family have any holy week traditions that you observe? If so, what are they?

Digging Deeper

2. Resurrection Sunday is also known as Easter Sunday. There is some evidence that the term “Easter” has pagan origins rooted in an old Saxon name “Eastra”, referring to the goddess of spring. What term do you use when speaking of this day? Should it matter to us? Why or why not?

Open Your Bible to Acts 17:16-34...

3. Paul was clearly disturbed by the idolatry in ancient Athens (v.16). In what ways does the idolatry of our culture disturb you? What evidence of idolatry is there in your own life? Remember: an idol is something I want so bad I will sin in order to get it, or I will sin if I don't get it.
4. What does Paul's concern over the idolatry around him lead him to do (v.17)? How do you know, what verbal clue does Luke give us in verse 17? Does the idolatry around you and within your own heart lead you to action like Paul? If “yes”, how? If “no”, why not?
5. According to verse 18, what is the point of contention in Paul's preaching? What is the focus of Paul's message according to Luke? How central is the resurrection to the message of the gospel (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, 12-20)?
6. Though Paul was clearly “provoked” (v.16) by the idolatry of the Athenian culture, he used it as a bridge that would connect his hearers with the gospel (vv.22-23). How did he do it? How can we follow Paul's lead and engage our culture in a similar way?

7. Looking at Paul's message in verses 24-31, in what ways does he deliberately seek to engage their culture? In what ways does he deliberately seek to challenge their culture? What is the climax of this sermon? How do you know?

8. Verses 32-34 describe three very different reactions from Paul's hearers. What are they? Think through the people on your 'List of 5'. Do you see them responding in similar ways? Explain. Close your time together as a group by praying for the folks on your 'Lists of 5' by name, that they might become like those in verse 34.