

GROUPS

s e r m o n g u i d e

RIOTS AND REVIVALS: 02/01/2026 - Mike Wilson

MAIN IDEA

WHEN THE GOSPEL CONFRONTS THE CITY

TALK ABOUT IT

- When you hear the phrase “the gospel confronts the city,” what emotions come up in you—hope, fear, resistance, excitement, or exhaustion? Why?
- Paul was distressed by what the city worshiped. What does that reveal about what shaped his heart?
- “What moves your heart moves your feet.” Where do you see that connection—or disconnect—in your own life?
- What’s the difference between confronting culture and condemning people?
- If compassion for souls is “the one thing needful” (Spurgeon), what might need to change in how we see the people around us?
- Why do you think we’re often tempted to complicate or soften the gospel in culturally sophisticated settings?
- Paul spoke to philosophers but stayed focused on who God is and what He has done. Which part of the “simple gospel” do you personally find hardest to communicate clearly?
- How does trusting the power of the gospel free us from the pressure to make it sound impressive or acceptable?
- Paul saw Athens’ idolatry, yet he began with observation rather than accusation. What does that teach us about engaging people who believe differently?
- What are some “altars to an unknown god” in our culture today, places where people are searching for meaning but missing truth?
- How can building bridges become compromise if we’re not careful and how can it become a powerful pathway to truth when done faithfully?
- Paul’s message leads to repentance, judgment, and resurrection. Why are these themes especially uncomfortable in our culture today?
- When some mocked and others believed, Paul didn’t adjust his message. What does this teach us about success in gospel witness?
- What fears most often keep you from speaking about Jesus plainly?
- How would your obedience change if you fully trusted God with the outcome of your witness?
- Where is God calling you personally to stop watering down truth and start speaking clearly?
- What would it look like for our life group to carry the gospel into culture instead of reacting to it?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to engage culture with gospel clarity and compassion?

KEY SCRIPTURES

ACTS 17:16-34

NEXT STEPS

- **ENCOUNTER:**
 - Join us during one of Sunday Worship Services: 8:30am, 10am (Spanish translation available) & 11:30am
- **EXPERIENCE:**
 - Growth Track WEEK 2: DISCOVER YOUR DESIGN
 - Sunday at 10am in the Fireside
- **EXPAND**
 - Open Gym - February 16th 10am-1pm

GOING DEEPER

- **Reflection:** Where have you grown most comfortable with the values of your culture, and how might that comfort be dulling your sensitivity to what grieves the heart of God?
- **Journal:** As you reflect on Acts 17, write about a moment when following Jesus clearly put you at odds with cultural expectations. What did that tension reveal about what you trust most God’s approval or cultural acceptance?

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NOTES

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