

EVANGELISM - RELATING

INTRO

Follow on...

We looked at:

- **being** the gospel and carrying God's message to people.
- using our gifts and contacts to meet and speak to people

Any stories?

Let's look at this clip of Russell Brand: **13:37 – 16:42**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/newsnight/9053238.stm>

He's searching for God...

Are we so different from non-Christians?

"while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

While we ignored Him, He died for us! – our ideal attitude

JESUS & THE WOMEN

- Samaritans were Jews who intermarried with colonists during exile
- Samaritans had sold Jews into slavery & killed pilgrims
- Samaritans worshipped away from Jerusalem
- Jews had no obligation to show Samaritans hospitality
- Jews despised the Samaritans in everyway

John 4:1-18

Four Barriers Jesus overcame:

1. **Moral** – She was an adulteress – He was God
2. **Social** – She was a women – He was a man
3. **Racial** – She was a Samaritan – He was a Jew
4. **Religious** – She was a Samaritan – He was a Jew

Jesus saw passed all these because of her need.

PAUL IN ATHENS

Athens was a lot like modern London:

- Many nationalities
- Religious & sceptical

- Many religions and philosophies
- Lovers of art& music
- Democratic

The Phaenomena of Aratus – 277 BC:

*“With Jove we must begin; nor from him rove;
Him always praise, for all is full of Jove!
He fills all places where mankind resort,
The wide-spread sea, with every shelt’ring port.
Jove’s presence fills all space, upholds this ball;
All need his aid; his power sustains us all.
For we his offspring are; and he in love
Points out to man his labour from above:
Where signs unerring show when best the soil,
By well-timed culture, shall repay our toil...”*

Let’s read Act 17:16-28 (ESV)

Paul speaks to them in a way they understand – poets they knew

APPLICATION

We have to learn to meet people where they are at.

I have far more fruitful evangelism over food than in an event.

E.g. Fred, Ro, Bobby

Ask God to:

- give you opportunities to share His love and reality
- see the person as made by God
- see them as someone in need of love, hope and joy
- help you be patient and willing to put others first

Spend time:

- with your friends, families, neighbours
- having lunch or dinner or a drink
- going to the cinema, restaurant, park or museum

CONCLUSION

Be Jesus: see past barriers and to their need

Be Paul: relate to people in a way they understand

START NOW – DON’T WAIT

PRAY – for one friend in pairs