



Sermon Notes: Lessons from Cities

1. The Gospel Mission is City-centric.

2. The Gospel Mission is Cosmopolitan.

ANTIOCH: The Multicultural City

Basic point:

3. The Gospel Mission is Credible.

ATHENS: The Intellectual/Philosophical City

Basic point:

4. The Gospel Mission is Circumstantial.

CORINTH: The Commercial City

Basic point:

5. The Gospel Mission is Confrontational.

EPHESUS: The Religious City

Basic point:

6. The Gospel Mission is (un)Chained

ROME: The Political City

Basic point:



Gospel Applications: Lessons from Cities

Discuss.

1. How would you describe your own attitude toward cities? Indifferent? Disgusted? Romanticized? Positive? In what ways has this sermon challenged your attitude toward cities?
2. In the sermon, we overviewed Paul's travels to the multicultural (Antioch), philosophical (Athens), commercial (Corinth), religious (Ephesus), and political (Rome) centers of his day. Which city/culture seems to you to be most similar to Denver? Which seems most different? In what kind of city do you feel most at home?
3. Consider all the urban church buildings that are now demolished or repurposed as something else (condos, events centers, museums, etc.). What happened? Why did Christians leave the cities in the first place? Why are Christians returning to the cities today?
4. Why do you think the book of Acts focuses on the expansion of the Gospel to strategic cities, rather than on the rural ministry that must've been happening at the same time?
5. Tim Keller writes, "*Cities, quite literally, have more of the image of God per square inch than any other place on earth. How can we not be drawn to such masses of humanity if we care about the same things that God cares about?*" What are some reasons people avoid ministry in the city? What are some reasons they're attracted to urban ministry?
6. Thinking about Denver . . .
 - What is our Mars' Hill?
 - What are our marketplaces?
 - Where is culture being forged – and who's doing the forging?
 - Where had God providentially opened and closed doors?
 - What are we doing about it?
7. What are the idols of our city? What are the idols of urban-dwelling Christians today? What can/should we do to confront these idols and offer a greater hope?

Pray.

1. Confess where your attitudes toward the city are not in line with God's missional pursuit of the city. Confess the ways you want church to be about your comfort and convenience rather than the rescuing of the lost and the glory of Christ.
2. Ask – and trust – God to empower and equip you for living, working, and serving in the city.