

## Short Reflection on the Sermon of the Day 17 May 2020 Easter 6

We all know about Paul with his great endurance, troubles, hardships and distresses; the beatings, imprisonments and riots; his hard work, sleepless nights and hunger. So, in the situation we hear about in the first reading from Acts, what was Paul thinking at the Areopagus – taking on the moral and religious high court of Athens? He knows It was illegal to preach of a foreign deity in Athens- but does it stop him?

Paul, finds himself in a tight spot again; yet we cannot but admire his silver tongue. He cunningly avoided the trap of preaching about a foreign deity by referring to an altar to one that already existed – “the unknown god.”

Paul does not seek to slide away from risk. He cleverly engages the Athenians in a way that they understand. If we were to continue reading just two more verses we would learn that *When they heard about the resurrection of the dead, some of them sneered, but others said, ‘We want to hear you again on this subject.’ .... and ....some of the people became followers of Paul and believed.*

Today, and down the centuries, we are taught to preach the Gospel afresh to each generation. Like St Paul in Athens we need to connect to our people, to our time, to our culture, to our society.

The Lord be with you.

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