

Worldwide

Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Acts 17: 16 - 34

Week 6 of 8

It had been a trying week at our Love & Action office. At five o'clock on a Friday, I was looking forward to having a quiet dinner with friends. Then the phone rang. "Jeff! It's Jimmy!" I heard a quivering voice say. Jimmy, who suffered from several AIDS-related illnesses, was one of our regular clients. "I'm really sick, Jeff. I've got a fever. Please help me."

I was angry. After a 60-hour workweek, I didn't want to hear about Jimmy. But I promised to be right over. Still, during the drive, I complained to God about the inconvenience. The moment I walked in the door, I could smell the vomit. Jimmy was on the sofa, shivering and in distress. I wiped his forehead, then got a bucket of soapy water to clean up the mess. I managed to maintain a facade of concern, even though I was raging inside.

Jimmy's friend, Russ, who also had AIDS, came down the stairs. The odor made Russ sick, too. As I cleaned the carpet around Russ's chair, I was ready to explode inside. Then Russ startled me. "I understand! I understand!"

"What, Russ?" Jimmy asked weakly. "I understand who Jesus is," Russ said through tears. "He's like Jeff!" Weeping, I hugged Russ and prayed with him. That night Russ trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior—a God who had used me to show his love in spite of myself. [Jeffrey Collins, "It Happened on a Friday," *Christian Reader* (March/April 1998), Vol. 36, no. 2]

This week's readings will illustrate how people of God met others where they were, and pointed them to where they needed to be.

- DAY ONE – John 4:1-26
- DAY TWO – John 5:1-15
- DAY THREE – John 12:1-11
- DAY FOUR – John 20:24-31
- DAY FIVE – Acts 17:16-34

Memory Verse: "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22)



northeast daily reading

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