Acts 17 - Thessalonica, Berea and Athens

CHARACTERS: Paul, Epicurean, Stoic, crowd
COSTUMES: Biblical
SETTING: bare stage
RUN TIME: 3 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 17
FK reading level: 5.8

At rise: Paul speaking to a crowd. Crowd must react facially and with their posture to what Paul says and to each other to maintain audience interest during Paul's monologue.

PAUL: This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah. Look carefully at scripture and you will see that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead.

EPICUREAN: *(dismissively)* What is this babbler trying to say?

STOIC: *(thoughtfully)* He seems to be advocating foreign gods.

EPICUREAN: May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?

STOIC: You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean.

PAUL: People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and have our being. As some of your own poets have said, We are his offspring.

Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.

EPICUREAN: Resurrection of the dead? Absurd! He's a babbler.

STOIC: We want to hear you again on this subject.

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