

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S2E9

Title - Hellenism: Media That Distracts

Description - We're bombarded with media, news and information every day. So what are you feeding into your mind, your heart each day?

We've been talking through the impact of Alexander the Great and his impact on the world through Hellenism.

The third way Alexander impacted the world was through Information and the media.

The media impacts us personally, everyday. If you're around the watercooler you know something about someone just by asking where they get their news from.

Alexander said, you Jews are so closed minded. Let me tell you the news from what's going on in Rome, in Corinth, around the mediterranean world. Before Hellenism, Jews weren't too concerned about worldwide events, who cares who's leading India, the Temple is the center of Jewish society.

So it's information, news, and media. Beit She'an is one of the ancient greek cities in Israel near Mount Gilboa, where Saul & Jonathan were killed and their bodies put on display on the mountain.

Alexander also introduced them to global trade, fine china, rug imports from India, etc. So they begin to be eaten up with consuming things.

So you could go to these Greek and Roman cities and participate in any sinful thing you'd like to indulge in. It was all about things, possessions, rugs, jewelry, it began a slow, persistent distraction into the Jewish life, distracting from a focus on God.

Aristotle, Socrates, Plato - The Fathers of Greek thought.

Acts 19:8-10

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went on for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

Paul's playbook for missions - to the Jew first, (normally in the synagogue), then to the gentile.

The Lecture hall of Tyrannus was the local Greek meeting hall, where news would be disseminated to the community. The latest happenings would be talked about there.

Jesus says that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. So what comes out of our mouths comes from our hearts, our minds.

Proverbs 4:23 - guard your heart / mind, because it is a source of life.

Our society and culture today are the exact same as this culture 2000 years ago. What are you reading or listening to? What are you hearing or watching daily? Who are your friends, who do you hang out with?

What are you feeding into your mind, your heart each day?

Take time to do an audit of your head, your hands, your heart and mind. What are you allowing into your life? What are you feeding your soul?

Ultimately, you will give an account of your life to the Judge. He will call you to give an account.