

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

May 7, 2023

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Series: Acts

Sermon title: Preaching the Gospel in Antioch of Pisidia

Scripture text: Acts 13:13-52

Let's pray.

We've come to one of those passages today in Acts that will not make any sense unless we read the entire story.

So, take a deep breath, open your Bible to **Acts 13** and let's dive right in.

Let's look at the structure before we read it.

Intro: verses 13-15

Historical background: verses 16-25

Paul's gospel sermon: verses 26-41

The response: verses 42-52

13 Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, 14 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat

down. 15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." 16 So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. 17 The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. 18 And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. 19 And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. 20 All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. 21 Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

22 And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.' 23 Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. 24 Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after

me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

26 "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. 27 For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. 28 And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. 29 And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

30 But God raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. 32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, 33 this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,

"'You are my Son, today I have begotten you.'

34 And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, "'I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.' 35 Therefore he says also in another psalm, "'You will not let your Holy One see corruption.'

36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, 37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. 38 Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.

40 Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

41 "Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you."

42 As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. 43 And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves

unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,

“I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

49 And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

The main ideal of today’s sermon is this...this is what you need to take away from this big passage:

The word of the Lord was spreading around the whole region as believers shared the gospel.

And we will see just how Paul did that in Antioch of Pisidia.

Antioch of Pisidia is up in the mountains by way of a Roman road from Perga. It was a hard climb over the Taurus mountains.

This Antioch was a major city centre in Galatia. Galatians was written to this church and the others around it.

So, Paul and Barnabas go there and head to the synagogue and are asked to say a few words. Paul preaches the gospel to them.

Paul's historical background in his sermon is extraordinary. He starts in Genesis and goes through the Old Testament, skipping the 1000 years from David to the last prophet of the Old Testament, John the Baptist.

- v. 17- Genesis and Exodus
- v. 18- Numbers (In the Wilderness)
- v. 19- Joshua
- v. 20- Judges
- v. 21- 1 Samuel 8-10
- v. 22- 1 Samuel 15-16
- v. 23- 2 Samuel 7
- v. 24- Mark 1:4
- v. 25- Mark 1:7

One point of application we can gain from the very beginning is that we need to know our Bibles to share the gospel.

Can we do what Paul did? From our minds?

For the rest of the breakdown of this story, I want to do so by giving us **4 things we see about the gospel in Paul's sermon.**

I. Share the gospel in a way people can understand.

Paul is in a Jewish synagogue speaking to Jews so he shares in a way that they can understand.

He gives a concise Old Testament summary to lead into Christ.

This is not what he did in other contexts.

Look at **Acts 14:15-18** where he is NOT in a synagogue and not sharing with Jews.

15 "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. **16** In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. **17** Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

But here with the Jews he shares in a way that they can understand.

We should do the same.

We should really think about how we are to share with gospel with different people.

Everyone needs to hear the gospel but not from the same angle.

Paul shares with them from the Old Testament scriptures.

But though we need to **I. Share the gospel in a way people can understand**, we must.....be careful to.....

II. Share the WHOLE gospel.

Look in **verse 26**

“Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. 27 For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. 28 And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. 29 And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.

30 But God raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses

to the people. 32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,

Verse 28- death of Jesus

Verse 29- burial of Jesus

Verse 30- resurrection of Jesus

Verse 31- proof of Jesus's being alive

Verse 32- this is the good news

Verse 38- forgiveness of sins through Jesus

Verse 40- called for a response/ gave a warning

Paul's sermon shows us that **I. We must be share the gospel in a way that people can understand** and it shows us that **II. We must share the WHOLE gospel.** And we must call for a response.

"You must believe or these are the consequences".

We must....

III. Share the gospel though opposed.

Verses 45 & 50, What happened?

The whole city gathered together.

Word had gotten out.

45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.

50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

As we said last week, when we share the gospel in a way people can understand and we share the whole gospel....some will be opposed to it.

And the reason why we should share though opposed is because we will also see fruit if we share.

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

49 And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region.

So, we must:

- I. Share the gospel in a way that people can understand.**
- II. Share the WHOLE gospel with people.**
- III. Share the gospel though opposed.**

Lastly.....we must.....

IV. Share the gospel with someone else.

50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. **51** But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. **52** And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

You may find it strange what they did maybe even unmerciful...but remember Jesus told the disciples to do this.

“When the persecute you in one town, flee to the other.” **Matthew 10:23**

Now, why do I say, “Share the gospel with someone else”?

Because sometimes we can invest and share with this one person and neglect others....when that one person is clearly not open to the gospel.

Sometimes we gotta move on....in one sense..... It doesn't mean that we or God has given up on them but there comes a time when you need to leave them to God and spend some time with others who don't know Christ. Make sense?

Now, as we close up....let me remind us of the main point:

The word of the Lord was spreading around the whole region as believers shared the gospel.

This is what God is doing in Acts.

But the exhortation to us is this: **share the gospel.**

Paul and Barnabas are not here anymore. It's up to us now. As **Keith Green** said, "This generation of believers is responsible for this generation of souls."

How are we doing at sharing the gospel with those around us?

Is sharing even on our radar?

And could we share as Paul did?

Have we learned the word so well that we COULD share from our heads what needs to be said.

So, if not....we need to study, memorize and work on sharing.

But when we share, we need to:

- I. Share in a way that people can understand.
- II. Share the WHOLE gospel.
- III. Share though opposed.
- IV. Share with others and not focus on just one person.