

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 13:24-52

- Paul is now the leader of this missionary evangelistic group that's going into Synagogue's and looking for opportunities to share with any who would listen the gospel of Grace that is new to both the Jewish and Gentile ears. **V2** says that these men were called **"to minister to the Lord"** that's very important because most people come to church and determine if it was a good based upon how the service made them feel afterward, instead it should be we come together to minister to God not just about God ministering to us, because it is about Him and not about us. Paul and his team enter a Synagogue and he records his first sermon here in the book of Acts

V24-52

- Paul has started his first sermon reviewing the history of Israel and his message will closely resemble what he heard back in **Acts 7** when Stephen shared a similar message in reciting the Jewish history and how they rejected through the centuries the truth of God and persecuted those who shared these messages thus showing how hardened their hearts were to God's Word and to His will. **V24-29** he brings them to the present and uses John the Baptist and his message of repentance to the people and the rulers and he also challenged the hearers concerning Jesus.
- Asking **"who do you think I am?"** meaning if you think I am the Messiah your wrong, in fact John says he was not worthy to tie or lace his sandals. **V26-28** but in contrast the rulers nor the people saw Jesus in that respect and because they didn't listen to John's message or the scriptures they ended up using the Romans and Pilate to torture and crucify Jesus. **V29-31** but this is not the end of the story, it was just a part of it, as horrific an act as this was it had all been prophesied Paul tells them, so they all merely fulfilled their roles of being on the wrong side of history, and this Jesus whom they desired dead and silenced He is alive and seen by many.
- So everything that has happened Paul is saying was in accordance to God's will, the rejection, the lying, the torture, the crucifixion, and the raising of Jesus from the dead all a part of the plan even though we didn't understand it at the time, the important thing to know is God does, therefore remember that **"oops"** is not in His vocabulary. **V32-37** Paul tells them that this is good news not bad news, and it's rooted in facts and on things that actually happened, not on philosophy, or speculations, but it's a proclamation of facts that concern what God has done. For it says He has fulfilled this for us His children, He's given us the **"sure mercies of David"**.
- Part of that promise is that Jesus truly is **"The Son of God"** and that He went into the grave like everyone before Him but He didn't see corruption, meaning there wasn't a decaying of the flesh that comes from sin, but Jesus saw no corruption having never sinned yet being able to remain perfectly holy even in the midst of doing His work for us on the cross. **V38-39** after establishing Who Jesus is, and what He did for us, forgiveness is offered to us but only through Him, for where the Law of Moses failed Jesus was able to overcome proving what He said in > **Jn 14:6**.

- **V40-41** after sharing the message he leaves them with a solemn warning that comes out of **Hab 1:5** that spoke of the judgment that came upon Jerusalem for rejecting the messages and cries of repentance from the prophets now the **NT** Jews and Gentiles will be given an opportunity not to follow in those footsteps. **V42-44** unfortunately not all heed the warning, as although both Jew-Gentile respond positively to the message scripture pays particular attention to the Gentiles who upon hearing that they could be saved like the Jews wanted to hear more of the message so they invite Paul and his team to come next week and the place is packed with eager listeners.
- I love Barnabas encouraged them to “**continue in the grace of God**” this is so important because what’s its saying is “Continuing in grace is just as important as beginning in grace” I know a lot of people who began in grace only to end up in something else, and you wonder what happened! Also we see what happens when people respond to a relationship with God as opposed to having to earn their way to God, as we see humility and thankfulness and not worry and sweat.
- **V45** on the flip side those who rejected the grace of God respond in jealousy and pride, and begin arguing and opposing and stirring up trouble which is the opposite of what true salvation produces. **V46-49** although there will always be who reject the truth it is still necessary to preach it to them, but just because they shut the door on themselves doesn’t mean God is not opening up other opportunities elsewhere. The Gentiles upon hearing this are overjoyed and begin to praise the Lord and more evangelism takes place fulfilling > **Rom 1:16, Is 49:6**.
- **V50-52** with blessing comes opposition for as the word of the Lord spreads so does the dissent and jealousy of the Jews, for in the midst of one revival of people getting saved, a second group is being revived led by the Devil, who stirs up Jewish opposition in the form of women and men who hold prominent positions in the area to try and run Paul and his team out and silence the gospel. Paul’s undeterred as he shakes the dust off his feet in a display that he’s done his job now their rejection is on their own head and goes on to the next city with Joy of the Holy Spirit.