

Bible Study 9

Gospels Usage of Jewish Scripture

Aim: To examine how Jesus uses the Jewish Scriptures in the Gospels and how Christians may hear those texts today as a call to faithful and holy living.

Opening Prayer: Gracious God, open our hearts and minds as we study your Word. Help us to hear the Scriptures as Jesus taught them, to recognize your liberating work among us, and to respond with faith, humility, and holy living. Guide our conversation, deepen our understanding, and form us into a community that bears witness to your justice, mercy, and peace. Amen.

Learning Guide Questions

- What might Jewish Scripture have meant within its own historical and theological context?
- What should we understand about the imagination and hope of the First Testament?
- How does Jesus interpret Scripture in relation to his mission and message?
- How can Christians today hear Jesus' call to holy living?

Primary Texts

Opening Reflection Question: Is there one way to effectively share the story good news of God's love and life to different people groups?

Readings: Acts 13: 13-52

Ministry to Jews and Gentiles Beginning

Commentary:

Paul (Saul) and his companions sailed to Antioch in Pisidia. In a synagogue we hear a message of God's good news to all people. God wants relationship with everyone and that is possible through Jesus Christ. The Hebrew texts were used as indicators of the intention and witness of divine direction to that point. What can we learn from the usage of these texts and their interpretation?

Acts 13:14-22

What is being spoken about in the story of God among the people?

What is the supporting text and does it mean in this story and in the original story?

Read: **1 Samuel 13:14 tg**

What are our answers?

Acts 13:23-33

Good News is proclaimed how?

What is the supporting text and how is it used in the original story as compared to the sermon of Paul?

1)Read: Psalm 2:7

2)Read: Isaiah 55:3 and Psalm 16:10

What are your thoughts?

Acts 13:38-41

Forgiveness of Sins and Resurrection important? Why?

What is the supporting text and how is it used in the original story as compared to the sermon of Paul?

Read: **Habakkuk 1:5**

What are your thoughts?

Acts 13:42-51

Mixed Reactions and Responses

What is the supporting text and how is it used in the original story as compared to the sermon of Paul?

Read: **Isaiah 49:6 (see Luke 2:32).**

What should we respond to rejection or mixed reactions to the church telling communities about good news of Jesus these days?

Study Summary

The arrival of Paul, Barnabas and the mission team at Pisidian Antioch (south-central Asia Minor) is the scene of the presentation of the message about Jesus and relevance to all people. They used sociological, historical, and stories of God's Journey with the people to weave a narrative of divine intent being revealed in real time relationships. The way scripture is read affects the way good news can be received by all.

Closing Prayer

Closing Prayer: God of our times. Lead us by the Holy Spirit into ways of being faithful witnesses of your love to the world. Open our eyes hearts to obediently walk new journeys that will transform lives for good.