

Continual Proclamation

Acts 28:11-31

Twin gods -> Castor and Pollux, you might know them better from Greek mythology. They were transformed by Zeus into twin gods represented by the constellation Gemini.

vs. 14, Brothers and Sisters in Puteoli.

vs. 15, Arrived in Rome. The church had been filled with much anticipation.

Remember Priscilla and Aquila

- In the late 40's AD, the emperor Claudius forced them out of Rome.
- Paul more than likely arrived in Rome around 60AD. Nero who succeeded Claudius would have cancelled the banning order around 54AD.

vs. 20, For the hope of Israel that I am in these circumstances.

Hope of Israel = Jesus

vs. 21-22, The news of what had gone on in Jerusalem with Paul had not traveled to Rome.

vs. 23-25, Paul explained with detail and experience the kingdom of God.

- He spoke from the law of Moses and the Prophets.
- Some were convinced, others were not.
- One statement became the center of disagreement.

Isaiah 6:9-10 And he replied:

Go! Say to these people: Keep listening, but do not understand;
keep looking, but do not perceive.

10 Make the minds of these people dull; deafen their ears and blind their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears, understand with their minds, turn back, and be healed.

This passage is quoted in all four gospels, here in Acts, and is a source of Paul's words in Romans 11:11-32.

Romans 11:1, 5, 11, 30-31 I ask, then, has God rejected his people?

5 there is also at the present time a remnant chosen by grace. **11** I ask, then, have they stumbled so as to fall?

Absolutely not! On the contrary, by their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous. **30** As you once disobeyed God but now have received mercy through their disobedience, **31** so they too have now disobeyed, resulting in mercy to you, so that they also may now receive mercy.

The light of Jesus which illuminates the nations must also be the glory of God's people Israel.

Jewish situation (specifically)

- Always listening / Never understanding
- Always looking / Never perceiving
- Israel is estranged from God entirely because of the people's stubbornness!

Human enlightenment (In general)

Reminder of current cultural worldview (human secularism).

Refusing to see truth because of a cultural stubbornness which seeks to embrace "the manifestation of self-identity and communal substitution completely void of a creator (God).

Resistance often takes shape through power dynamics.

Religion is often used to wield power, and so the baby is thrown out with the bath water.

Paul describes “the way”, not as a religion.

He describes entering the kingdom of God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

“If you believe that Jesus is risen, ascended, and glorified, you have no choice. Jesus is not a distant divine being to whom one might fly off in an escapist spirituality. If he is Messiah, he is the world’s true King.” ~ NT Wright

vs. 28, This salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles (the nations); they will listen.

Acts 13:46 Paul and Barnabas boldly replied, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles.

Acts 18:6 When they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his clothes and told them, “Your blood is on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

vs. 30, Time in Rome

- Two years in a rented house
- Welcoming visitors
- Proclaiming the kingdom of God
- Teaching about Jesus
- With boldness and without hesitation

Luke intends the reader to understand that Paul is opening the gate to the beginning of the end of Acts 1:8. Paul’s arrival in Rome is the beginning of the ‘ends of the earth.’

- In one shape and form the church is in the process of accomplishing its mission.

Luke intentionally finishes Acts open ended.

The end of Acts is our beginning!

Jesus is good news.

The ministry of Jesus, the inauguration of the kingdom from Galilee to Jerusalem (Luke’s gospel) has now extended from Jerusalem to Rome (as told in Luke’s narrative, Acts).

Question: Do you believe and live in such a way that shows a watching world that Jesus is truly King?

How does this shape your view of self?

How does this shape your view of community?

How does this shape your view of truth?

Luke 9:23 Then he said to them all, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.