



September 11th, 2022
Acts 13:14-52

Today is about Jesus...
Welcome and Good Morning....

Visitors...Two Things First time in a long time....

Remembering 9/11 - Pray and be grateful for the freedom to worship in public.

Boise Rescue Mission Gift Card - Fundraiser Results! - Goal 50 We hit \$20.00 gift cards between now and September 4th.

Series Outline: Pt. 3 Acts:Conflict with Culture

The Gospel is expanding and proving Jesus' words true in the opening chapter.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8, ESV

The disciples are telling the truth about what they have seen, heard and experienced with Jesus in a greater geographical sphere. The message of the life, death, resurrection, ascension, sending of the Holy Spirit and promised return of Jesus is beginning to encounter new places and new people. This expansion is beginning to create conflict with the religious establishment and the cultural entrenchment.

In our fall series through the third section of Acts we will be highlighting the ways the good news of Jesus creates this conflict with religion and culture. We will see the gospel take root in the hearts and lives of people that both religion and culture see as outcast.

Our Particular Hope for the Next Series:

In our examination of these conflicts we hope to learn from the early church and missional disciples:

- 1. To be confronted by the Gospel - Rebellious and Religious hearts***
- 2. To live courageously for Christ - before all people***
- 3. To share the gospel with boldness trusting God with the results***

4. *To impact the lives of those around us by loving our neighbors whomever they are.*

A reading from the book of...Acts 13:13-15 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

PRAY.

++SLIDE++

Main Idea: The Gospel of Jesus Christ creates conflict with the religious establishment and cultural entrenchment.

No matter how you choose to outline Acts, it is evident that chapter 13 begins a new section. It describes a third stage in the expansion of the gospel. In it we see examples of spirit empowered, grace-enabled, gospel-centered, Christ exulting missionaries.

Acts 13:13–52 (ESV) — 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.”

It was the custom on a normal Sabbath to have two readings of the Scriptures: one from the law, the other from the prophets. After that people could give extemporaneous expositions.

So Paul and the other missionaries customarily went into the synagogues, waited, and then when they were asked to speak used the opportunity to preach about Jesus

There were Jews, of course. But there were also some devout Gentile God-fearers

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.

1. Preparation of God’s Providence

Paul sees the history of God’s people through His purposeful actions.

God did this, and God did that. It is always a case of God calling, moving, saving, and delivering his people.

This history is not random, because God doesn’t do random. He is always accomplishing his purposes in the world.

The climax of God's redemptive work through the nation of Israel's history was the birth of Jesus Christ, just as he promised!

Paul tells his audience that Jesus is the climax of biblical history!

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.

2. Proclamation of Christ's Work - Basic elements of the missionary message about Christ in Acts:
(1) a proclamation of the death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus, seen as the fulfillment of prophecy and involving human responsibility;
(2) the resultant evaluation of Jesus as both Lord and Christ;
(3) a summons to repent and receive forgiveness of sins

The resurrection is proof positive that Jesus is who he said he was. Only if he is the Son of God can his death provide an appropriate and sufficient sacrifice for human sin.

Essentially, the Gospel is a declaration that Christ is risen from the dead, and by that great act God has brought salvation.

The Gospel is not a dull recital of historical facts but a dynamic confrontation between the Holy Spirit and the sinful heart of humanity at the point of its basic need: to be reconciled to God.

To repent and believe in the gospel is to enter into the kingdom of God.

The Gospel has as its ultimate goal not in forming a sophisticated theology but ultimately in a transformed life.

It is the declaration that in Christ the new order of eternal life has already entered into time and history!!!

We must keep the declaration of Jesus death and resurrection at the center of our ministry and work.

Christ is the hero of the bible and must be the hero of our preaching, teaching, discipleship, and ministry.

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.’ ”

Promise of the forgiveness of sins and justification by faith and final warning.

What does Christ’s death and resurrection mean for them and for us?

You can be justified, that is, declared righteous in God’s sight through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

We who can’t perfectly obey God, can be counted righteous through placing our faith in Jesus!

We can’t earn righteousness we must receive it!

We can receive justification before God, meaning standing before Him “not only just as if I never sinned” but also just as if I always obeyed! When we trust Christ alone

People will try everything to get rid of the guilt they feel, and to deal with their unsettled consciences. They try some healthy ways: therapy, exercise, diet, charity work and some try other unhealthy remedies: substance abuse, idolatry, medicines that numb their feelings and while these can treat some of the symptoms they ultimately can’t heal a person of their real problem. The weight of their disobedience to God’s law.

Paul issues a call to his listeners and to us to rest the weight of our sin, guilt and restless conscience on Christ. To rest in the grace of Jesus and to stop trusting in anything else.

Paul’s final warning is a quote of Habakkuk 1:5 he warns against the hardness of heart that keeps people from believing. He warns against cynicism and scoffing at the grace of God

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.

Paul’s sermon can teach us about something called contextualization:

“In every situation there needs to be a point of contact with the people, understanding their values, history, and communication style and a point of conflict that reveals how their own narrative conflicts with that of the gospel” Steve Timmis¹

Contact with the people - as students of culture - values, history, communication style

¹ <https://churchleaders.com/outreach-missions/outreach-missions-blogs/149845-how-to-plant-a-church-five-principles-from-steve-timmis.html>

Conflict - reveals the conflict between their own narrative and that of the gospel

Paul demonstrates this in his sermon - He is faithful to the truth of the Gospel and flexible in the application of its implications

Speaking to an audience familiar with the OT, Jews and devout converts Paul utilizes the Gospel's fulfillment of the Old Testament covenant and applies the gospel right where people familiar with the OT need it:

"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."

Paul promises freedom from everything (namely guilt, shame, sin) that the law of Moses could not provide!

For those people seeking to justify themselves by their own good works Paul says there is freedom to be found from a self-salvation project.

Ex: Kevin poked a little fun at the culture of Idaho last week: Guns, Huckleberries, and Freedom - Freedom and Personal Autonomy

but in reality we are personally autonomous creatures - we are created beings made in the image of God accountable to Him. One day we will answer to him. True freedom is found in Christ!

"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1, ESV

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 Conflict: Intrigue and Rage! Repentant sinners and hard handed religious.

The people who knew the bible the best become the most hostile. Their pride in their work to make themselves right before God has blinded them to Grace.

The gentiles rejoice worship and believe. their fear that they could never make themselves right with God is proved true! Because God has made a way for them to be declared right before through Jesus Christ.

The messengers were filled with joy!

We should expect to encounter similar conflict when we make the gospel known.

To the religious self salvation project committed person the grace of the gospel is a great insult.

To the guilt ridden self loathing sinner the gospel is good news.

To messengers they trust God with the results: Vs. 48. resulting in Joy despite persecution from the powers and instagram influencers and puppet politicians.

Two things you must believe and one thing you must do:

1. You must believe that apart from God's grace your disposition is that of the wicked rulers and kings: In rebellion against God. Sin, disobedience to God's will, word and way has left you spiritually dead and helpless.
2. You must believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ. That Jesus life, death and resurrection are the good news of Salvation from your rebellion.
3. The final thing you must do: You must kiss the son. That is you must submit your life to him. Romans 10:9 is of great help here:

“because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9, ESV



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Introduction

Greet one another and pray before you begin discussion.

Read: Acts 13:14-52.

Discussion

1. Consider the approaches to culture the church can take: Adoption, Withdrawal, and Confrontation. Which of these do you most often identify with in your own approach? Why do you think that is?

Examination

2. Outline Paul's sermon in Acts 13. How would you summarize his three main points?

3. What are the different reactions to Paul's sermon? How does the gospel challenge both the religious establishment and the cultural entrenchment of the people?

4. What conflicts do the missionaries face in this section of Acts 13?

Application

5. Why do you think John Mark returned to Jerusalem (vs. 13)? What might this relational conflict teach us about ministry?

6. What do we need to know in order to present the gospel to different types of people? What does it mean to be faithful and flexible with the gospel? How does Paul demonstrate these in his sermon?

7. What about Paul's sermon most resonates with you?