

Acts 14 – 9 August 2020

“Essential Aspects Of Sharing Christ” Part 2 of 2

Introduction

The Church has begun to expand. Antioch in Syria is taking over as the most productive HQ of the church.

Great persecution has been happening in Jerusalem.

Church at Antioch prayed about sending out missionaries with just one goal in mind:

Share the saving knowledge of Jesus the Christ with everyone who will hear.

Paul and Barnabas have been sent out in chap 13 to preach & we can learn some things from their approach to the people they meet.

We finish what's known as Paul's 1st Missionary trip today in chapter 14

This 1st Missionary Trip of chap 13-14 shows us things that will happen with good Gospel preachers

Chap 13 showed us:

1. The Devil will distract from the preaching of the Gospel
2. We should take advantage of our daily occasions to share
3. We should include the death and resurrection of Jesus
4. We should give our hearers a decision to make

Today chap 14 will give us 4 more tips for good Gospel preaching (we'll # these 5 thru 8)

5th Thing we learn about Gospel preachers is that they accept that only some will receive the message (Chap 14:1-7)

Read Vs 1-2

1. The first battlefield for a Christian is the mind!
2. Read Eph 4:23, Rom 12:2, II Cor 4:4 & 10:5

Read Vs 3-4

1. Their message caused a divide...like a sword
 - a. Word of God is like a sword
 - b. Fact that only some believed isn't for a lack of explaining the truth...they spent "long time"
2. Read Matt 10:34 – "Think not that I've..."
3. The very intention of Gospel msg is to divide.
 - a. To call out some from the darkness.

Read Vs 5-7

1. Just as in Antioch of Pisidia in chap 13, they preached until they were being kicked out.
2. The only thing that could unite the Jews and Gentile was their distaste for Christianity.
 - a. These Jews would rather divide from Jewish Christians than from Gentile Heathens.
 - b. May our division only be to separate from sin...and its consequences.

6th Thing we learn about Gospel preachers is that they redirect people to Christ & away from self (Chap 14:8-20)

Read Vs 8-10

1. How was he healed?
 - a. Was it Paul command “Stand upright”?
 - b. Was it the man’s faith?
 - c. Or was it the powerful Lord of heaven that he came in contact w/ today thru Paul?
 - d. Only the Lord is essential in this equation.
2. Often it takes another person’s words, like Paul, to activate our faith that opens the door for God to be able to work on our behalf.
3. Shouldn’t worship the man’s faith, or Paul’s command to walk, but the power God who healed!

Read Vs 11-14

1. The people misdirected credit to men not God.
2. Paul/Barnabas certainly handle this much different the Herod did in chap 12.

Read Vs 15-18

1. Vs 15 – Paul tells them to turn from “these” vanities. What vanities?
 - a. Worshipping men and things of earth.
2. He squarely turns them to God.
 - a. The God who’s always been there for them
 - b. Not just in Paul’s life, but in their life.
3. What can man offer apart from God? Nothing
 - a. What can a garden hose offer apart from having living water?

Read Vs 19-20

1. I believe this means that Paul actually died.
 - a. Later Paul would write (Read II Cor 12:2)
2. So the people turn on Paul & Barnabas
 - a. People can be so fickle
 - b. Need grounded in God’s truth to avoid this.
 - c. Elijah challenged Israel to remove fickleness, “How long halt ye between 2 opinions”
 - d. Read James 1:8 – “Double-minded man is,,,”

7th Thing we learn about Gospel preachers is that they reassure & strengthen people (Chap 14:21-25)

Read Vs 21-25

1. So they return the very path that brought them here, just backward.
2. Very little concern for their own well-being b/c they care for others so much.
3. Look at 3 ways they strengthened them
 - a. #1 – Exhorted to continue in belief of God
 - i. Exhort same word as H. S. / Comforter
 - b. #2 – Gave them a real expectation of the trouble ahead.
 - i. Don't lie saying Christianity is bed of roses.
 - c. #3 – Appointed leaders to serve & guide
 - i. They're a brotherhood connected w/ the very saints back in Antioch & Israel

8th Thing we learn about Gospel preachers is that rejoice in the wheat harvest accepting there's chaff (Chap 14:26-28)

Read Vs 26

1. This isn't some rigid accountability.
 - a. "Oh we have to report to the boss!"
2. This is a joy to return home and talk to their closest friends.
 - a. My kids all want to show me what they've built that day, when I come home.
 - i. Not b/c I'm going to demand to know how they've used their time this summer day.
 - ii. But b/c they joy to share the accomplishment!

Read Vs 27-28

1. Notice they didn't recount each and every Jew that hated them... or stoned them.
2. They recounted salvation stories!
3. There will always be wheat and empty shells.
 - a. Which will you focus on?

Conclusion

So we closed Paul's 1st Missionary Trip and seen 4 more that happen with good Gospel preachers

1. They accept that only some will receive the message

- a. There are 2 kingdoms warring in this world
- b. Use the Word to divide like a sword

2. They redirect people to Christ and away from self

- a. Don't let people idolize the tool over God
- b. Our action or faith is useless w/o God's powerful action

3. They reassure & strengthen people for the journey ahead

- a. We all need strengthening whether we're asking for it or not

4. They rejoice in the harvest of souls

- a. You get to choose what to focus on