

Acts 13 – 2 August 2020

“Essential Aspects Of Sharing Christ”

Part 1 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 has been praying about sending out missionaries with just one goal in mind:

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

Paul & Barnabas will be sent out to preach & we can learn things from their approach to people they meet.

Chap 13-14 will be known as Paul's 1st Missionary Trip.

Today, we'll see 4 things that will happen with good Gospel preachers

Chap 13:1-5

Read Vs 1

1. Many of these leaders at Antioch were school buddies w/ Herod Antipas (trials of Jesus)
2. These are not young men but seasoned.

Read Vs 2-3

1. God chooses the one who has already invested themselves in the service of the Lord
 - a. Don't despise the days of small things.
2. Laying on of hands was to identify with them.
 - a. We can't all go, so we send you to represent us all with our blessing.

Read Vs 4-5

1. It is interesting that there's no mention of repentance or fruit here at Salamis
 - a. Even on the return home, they don't swing thru here as they do other cities they visited.
2. John – This is John Mark, writer of the Gospel

1st Thing we learn about Gospel preachers is that the Devil will distract from the spread of the Gospel Chap 13:6-12)

Read Vs 6-8

1. Sorceror, not pharmakia, it's magi or wise man.
 - a. He was a scientist of the day.
2. No question what Bar-Jesus was trying to do.
 - a. He wanted to turn Sergius Paulus away from the Gospel's message.
 - b. Many reasons for this...but they all come down to pride of wanting to keep what he has

Read Vs 9-11

1. Bar-Jesus is hindered by the Lord thru Paul
 - a. Hindered from distracting from the Gospel
 - b. Given the grace of a second change later
2. This "wise man" used subtlety, or deception to pervert, or misinterpret, the ways of God.
 - a. Fitting for the so-called enlightened ones of the world to end up in the dark

Read Vs 12

1. With the distraction put aside, the leader was able to listen to the message of the Gospel.
 - a. We should pray that the Lord will put away the distractions of the devil.
 - b. And let the light of His glorious Gospel shine the knowledge of Christ into hearts. (II Cor 4:6)
2. Notice he believed, not for the miracle, but b/c of the truth of the Gospel.
 - a. Now Bar-Jesus the wise man sits on darkness while Sergius has seen a great light!
 - b. It is our God to bring light to ALL those that desire to have it.

2nd Thing we learn about Gospel preachers is that they will take advantage of their daily occasions (Chap 13:13-26)

Read Vs 13

1. This is noted b/c it's a point of dispute between Paul and Barnabas later.
2. The Holy Spirit can lead you to do something that He wouldn't lead me to do.
 - a. Agabus, in Acts 21, indicated that Paul will be imprisoned if he goes to Jerusalem, as if to say, don't go.
 - b. Paul goes anyway as he was led of the Spirit to do.
 - c. We're not all exactly the same, there's a variety of gifts & administrations of those gifts.
 - d. Be led by faith in God...then do it. (Rom 14:23)

Read Vs 14-15

1. Going to synagogue was natural thing to do.
2. Before even thinking about special occasions, just use the daily occasions you already have to bless God and praise His name.
3. The sermon we're about to hear is one of the best in the whole Bible.
 - a. Great template for sharing Christ.

Read Vs 16-20

1. Interesting that the time of their most freedom, was the time of their most sin.
2. Still today, freedom just leads to much sin unless the individual's heart is led by the H.S.

Read Vs 21-22

1. What part of God's will was yet to be fulfilled?
 - a. He promised a land, a nation and a Seed!
2. Our daily testimony should include the idea that God wants to yet do great things in their life.

Read Vs 23

1. It all comes to a head.
2. To these men, Paul says, “The things you’ve been longing for, are fulfilled in Christ Jesus.”
3. To our friends, we say, “The things you’ve been longing for, are fulfilled in Christ Jesus.”

Read Vs 24-26

1. John gave witness to the things Paul’s saying.
2. Notice how he makes it personal.
 - a. These things happened for you!

3rd Thing we learn about Gospel preachers is that they’ll include the death & resurrection of Jesus (Chap 13:27-37)

Read Vs 27-28

1. They had the knowledge of the Lord in their ears every week but chose not to receive it into their hearts. (Read Matt 22:29)

Read Vs 29-30

1. I think of all the people today that b/c they know not God they are beginning to fulfill the End Times Prophecies.
 - a. Some say, “They people are evil”., maybe they just simply “know not God”.
2. So God’s will is fulfilled thru them, then God raises Jesus from the dead! (BUT GOD)
3. If you leave out the resurrection, you’re leaving out the very power of God!

Read Vs 31-33

1. Now Paul will quote repeatedly the OT showing that this has always been God’s plan!
2. “This day” is the day of the resurrection.

Read Vs 34-37

1. Showing these OT resurrection prophecies can’t be referring to David. They refer to Christ!

4th Thing we learn about Gospel preachers is that they will give their hearers a decision to make (Chap 13:38-41)

Read Vs 38-41

1. Vs 38 – The offer is on the table (Forgiveness)
2. Vs 39 – Those who believe are “justified”.
3. Vs 40-41 – Those who reject will perish.
4. Let them know, there are only two choices.
 - a. They are currently in the state of rejecting God to their own death, until and unless they repent and turn, believing in the cross

Read Vs 42-44

1. Some are already choosing the grace of God which sets them free from the bondage of keeping the Law to salvation.

Read Vs 45-52

1. Jews envy, oppose, & expel Paul.
2. This will always happen, expect it.

Conclusion

Be sure to recognize these essential things. They will always happen to good Gospel preachers.

I mean all of us, not just professional clergy.

1. **The Devil will distract from the preaching of the Gospel**
 - a. Ask the Lord to do a miracle in getting rid of the distraction to your witnessing
2. **We should take advantage of our daily occasions to share**
 - a. Verbally praise God in all the small ways first.
3. **We'll always include death & resurrection of Jesus**
 - a. The substance of the power that we're offering is b/c He raised from the dead, those who believe on Him CAN TOO.
4. **We'll give our hearers a decision to make**
 - a. No 3rd option. They're out until they opt in!