

Unstoppable Kingdom

Globally: Kingdom Preaching

Acts 13:13-41

Preaching is the centerpiece of our worship gatherings every week and it has played an enormously important role in the Unstoppable Kingdom of God. What does the Bible say about it?

Preach (keyroxon) = publish or proclaim openly (61 times in NT)

“So we preach and so you believed.” **1 Corinthians 15:11a**

“So I am eager to preach the gospel to you...” **Romans 1:15a**

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”

Romans 1:13-15

“Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” **1 Corinthians 9:16b**

Most biblical references to preaching are not in the context of a gathered congregation for worship, but are rather an open sharing of the gospel in a variety of settings. Preaching does NOT equal pastoring, but pastoring will involve preaching! All disciples of Jesus are not called to be pastors, but we are all called to preach (proclaim/share) the word! Preaching is important!

This text in Acts is primarily a sermon preached by the Apostle Paul and I want to teach a little homiletics (the art of preaching) today. Can you tell the difference between good preaching and bad preaching? Let's see!

*“**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.” **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. **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. **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.” **Acts 13:13-41***

Main Idea: God Uses Preaching to Build His Unstoppable Kingdom

Three Essential Elements to Kingdom Preaching in Acts 13:13-41

I. **Kingdom Preaching Expounds the Scripture- Vs. 16-23, 32-37**

To expound is to explain or develop an idea. Kingdom Preaching will always lead to a greater, clearer understanding of a passage of Scripture. Notice in this passage that the preacher (Paul) references many passages: Exodus (17-19), Judges (20), 1 Sam (21-22), Matthew (24, 25), Psalms (22, 33, 35), and Isaiah (34). Why did Paul do this? To impress everyone? No!

“Paul turned to the Scriptures to demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah who fulfilled the promise to David. In that generation, God accomplished his promise to David. This he did by ‘raising up’ Jesus...By the resurrection of Jesus, God demonstrated that he had truly accomplished his promise by bringing forth the Son who abides forever.” **John B. Polhill**

Expository Preaching = The point of the text is the point of the sermon!

All Kingdom Preaching must be lifted clearly from the Bible no matter where you hear it (church, YouTube, podcast, blog, street corner, etc.)

II. **Kingdom Preaching Edifies the Listener- Vs.13-15, 24-31**

Paul preaches several messages in the book of Acts, and one thing you will notice is that he is intentional about crafting each one for his specific audience. In Acts 13, he is preaching to a very Jewish audience. He refers to them as ‘Men of Israel’ and ‘you who fear God’ referencing both Jews by birth, proselytes who converted, and those who were not yet practicing, but

respected the Jewish way of life. Paul had a pattern of always going to the Jewish Synagogues first to share the good news of Jesus.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.” **Romans 1:16**

“Paul is setting up a system of signposts, from David a thousand years before to John a mere 15 or so years earlier. And all the signposts point to one person: Jesus the Messiah, the Rescuer. Paul’s strategy is a challenge to us all, to understand our audience well enough to know how to tell them the story in a way they will find compelling, how to set up signposts in a language they can read.” **N.T. Wright**

To edify means to enlighten or to IMPROVE something or someone. Good preaching does this for us. Do I walk away from this message better? When I share the gospel, do I really care for the person to grow or develop? I should!

III. Kingdom Preaching Exalts the Savior– Vs. 13:38-41

Finally, and most importantly, Kingdom Preaching Exalts the Savior!

“The motto of all true servants of God must be, ‘We preach Christ; and him crucified.’ A sermon without Christ in it is like a loaf of bread without any flour in it. No Christ in your sermon, sir? Then go home, and never preach again until you have something worth preaching.” **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

“Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.”
Acts 13:38-39

“But we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” **1 Corinthians 1:23-24**

No matter how well you explain the Bible, or how helpful you are to those listening...It’s not a Kingdom Sermon until you get to Jesus!!!

All Kingdom Preaching calls for a decision. The choice here is stark!!!

- **The Unstoppable Kingdom of Jesus** – Since Jesus lived the perfect life we should have lived and died the death we deserved to die; he now offers to sinners like us the free gift of salvation that he earned through his sacrificial death. Everyone who believes is free!
- **The In-Effective Kingdom of the Law** – The law of Moses is the standard that no one can keep, so there is only condemnation. We remain hopeless in our sins and mired in guilt. No one can be free!

“For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” **Romans 8:2-4 Good preaching makes you want Jesus more!**

Main Idea: God Uses Preaching to Build His Unstoppable Kingdom

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax, General Editor (2021)
- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *The New American Commentary: Acts* – John B. Polhill (1992)
- *Acts: Bible Study Commentary* – F.F. Bruce (2017)
- *Acts for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2008)
- *Acts: The Church Afire* – Kent Hughes (1996)
- *Acts* – K.O. Gangle (1998)
- *The Kingdom of God* – Martyn Lloyd-Jones (1992)
- *The Message of Acts* – John Stott (1994)
- *Kingdom First* – Jeff Christopherson (2015)
- *The Kingdom Agenda* – Tony Evans (1999)
- *To You* – Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1876)lkkkkkkkkkkklliiiiuu