

Wednesday night Bible study

November 11, 2020

Journey through the book of Acts

Acts 13:14ff

As we discovered in our last lesson, Saul of Tarsus will be known as Paul from here on out. (13:9)

Vs. 14 Paul and his team left Syria and – after crossing a rugged mountain range - arrived in Pisidian Antioch. Upon arrival they went straight to the Jewish synagogue. How are we to understand that in light of the fact that he was called to take the Gospel to the Gentiles (9:15) Consider 13:44-47 and Rom. 1:16

David Jeremiah gives insight to the standard synagogue service: The style was liturgical, beginning with the reading of the Shema (Deut. 6:4-5). A series of prayers came next, followed by a reading from the OT. A rabbi would then give comments to either interpret or exhort the group based on the reading. On this occasion, Paul – a rabbi who had studied under Gamaliel – was invited to speak.

Vss. 16-41

Albeit subtle, what distinction does Paul make in his opening words to the group? Based on those introductions, was Paul “preaching to the choir,” or no?

How would you describe the tone of Paul’s sermon?

Why might the Holy Spirit have prompted Paul to include so much history as the sermon unfolded?

How would you describe the difference between King Saul and King David, both as it relates to their character and their rise to power? (20-22)

Note the distinction Paul makes again in 26-27. How is the Holy Spirit using this distinction to challenge your own thinking about those who need to hear the message of the Gospel?

In 32-37, what point is Paul making concerning the Resurrection of Christ?

What was the Law of Moses powerless to do? (Vs. 39)

Vss. 42-43 What factors contributed to the success of the ministry of Paul and Barnabas ? Not to be overlooked here is their faithfulness to tell the story of Jesus out loud. Many have been proponents of the notion, "Preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words." Scripture, however, commands a clear teaching of the Gospel backed up with clear living of the Gospel. See Rom. 10:13-15

Vss. 44-48 Note the varied responses of the people to the message they proclaimed. Who set themselves up as the greatest opponent of Paul and Barnabas? What was the root cause of their opposition? Have you ever been there? Have you ever found yourself jealous of how God was using someone else in Kingdom work? Consider Mark 9:38-41. In addition, 1 Cor. 3:4-8 can give us insight to a healthier attitude.

Note the joy of the Gentiles in vs 48, especially considering their understanding that Jesus brought salvation to the Jews. Remember that we have been grafted in according to the amazing and mercy and grace of our Lord. Let your joy be the constant overflow of your heart.

Vss. 49ff Consider Matt. 10. As the word of the Lord was spreading, what else was spreading at the same time? Should we expect smooth sailing in the service of the King? Why or why not? Passages to consider include...

What's with shaking the dust off their feet? Matt 10:11-15

They headed for Iconium. Are they quitters, or what?

Our final verse speaks of their joy. Have you experienced the same even after times of hardship in Kingdom work? Where does that come from? See John 17