04/07/24

Acts 13 The Gospel Train Leaves the Station

Remind of the Journey so far: Map (SLIDE 1)

SLIDE 2

What has happened so far in Acts 13:

\* Paul and Barnabas are set apart by the Holy Spirit through prayer and fasting, and are sent out from Antioch. They take John Mark (Mark) with them.

\* Paul and Barnabas meet with Sergius Paulus, who has been influenced by a sorcerer named Bar-Jesus, or Elymas.

\* The gospel message overcomes the Satanic opposition of Bar-Jesus, and Sergius Paulus believes.

\* Paul and Barnabas land at Perga, where John Mark drops out.

\* From there, Paul and Barnabas cross the treacherous passes of the Taurus Mountains and come to Pisidian Antioch.

\* Paul is asked to speak at the Synagogue, and Paul gives his first recorded sermon.

\* Paul sets a gospel framework.

He proves from scripture that God has always provided for His chosen people

He assures his hearers that God’s gifts have culminated in Jesus, the Messiah and Savior of the people.

He backs up this claim with the testimony of John the Baptist, from the rejection of Jesus which fulfills the foretelling of the prophets, and mainly from the resurrection, which was witnessed by living men, and which was foretold in the Psalms,

\* Paul closes with an appeal to accept the forgiveness of sins Jesus offers, and with a warning against unbelief, taken from the Old Testament scriptures.

\* The gentiles in the city beg Paul to speak to them on the next sabbath.

\* Paul continues preaching to the Jews and proselytes after the sabbath, and persuades them to continue in their belief, in the grace of God.

There is a pattern for witnessing. Last week I referred to it as “Walking the Roman Road”

SLIDE 3

1. Romans 3:10-12 (Our history and our condition)
2. Romans 3:23 (Our need – The problem)
3. Romans 6:23 (What we all deserve - Death)
4. Romans 5:8 (God made a way for us to be made right with Him)
5. Romans 10:9-13 (The simple truth –the Good News!)
6. Romans 8:1 (Freedom! Life!)

Now we are caught up. This brings us to the next sabbath, Acts 13:44-52.

SLIDE 4

Let’s Read...

***“****On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.****45****But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.****46****Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.****47****For so the Lord has commanded us:*

*‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,  
That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”*

***48****Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*

***49****And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region.****50****But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.****51****But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.****52****And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.”*

**SLIDE 5**

**Acts 13:44-52 Summation**

\* The Jews are angry before Paul even starts – They are envious

\* Paul confronts them directly – “This good news has been offered to you first, but you have rejected it! Therefore, you have judged yourselves! (God does not need to judge us, we stand in judgment as a result of our rejection of Him).

\* Paul shocks them by telling them he is turning to the Gentiles.

\* The Gentiles glorify the word of the Lord (This is the message that salvation through the sacrificial death, burial and resurrection of Jesus is offered to all)

\* As many as were appointed to eternal life believed (Explain)

\* The word of the Lord was spread throughout the region (This will ALWAYS create tension).

\* Persecution (Satanic opposition) came upon them, but they moved on with joyful hearts.

Points of Emphasis/Application

S LIDE 6

**1. The Gospel Message of Jesus Christ will always create tension.**

Matthew 10:21-22 *“Now brother will deliver up brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.****22****And you will be hated by all for My name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”*

**2. There will always be those who respond to the gospel.**

Romans 8:29-30 *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.****30****Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.*

3. You can rely on the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16-17 *“I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—****17****the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*

4. There is great joy in persecution – There is a special blessing for those who are persecuted.

Matthew 5:11-12 *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.****12****Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*