

CP - 3/5/23

## Acts 13:13–25 - “Paul Preaches in Pisidia”

### Sermon Outline

#### 1. Drama, Disease, and Determination (13:13–14)

- V. 13 indicates a switch in primary leadership from Barnabas to Paul
- John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.
  - Why did he leave?
    - We don't know exactly why, but we know it was serious. (15:37–38)
    - At some point later, John Mark and Paul reconciled. (2 Timothy 4:11)
    - **Conflict is inevitable but doesn't have to end in failure.**
- V. 14 - They went from Perga to Antioch in Pisidia.
- Seems easy but not easy at all for multiple reasons
  - Why didn't they preach in Perga?
    - Some believe Paul was sick and wanted to get to cooler air. (Gal. 4:13–14)
- Paul being sick was just one part of the difficulty.
  - “Antioch lay some 100 miles to the North across the Taurus mountain range. The route was barren, often flooded by swollen mountain streams, and notorious for its bandits, which even the Romans had difficulty bringing under control.” (John Polhill)
  - It was said that Alexander the Great tried to avoid the Taurus mountains.
  - 2 Corinthians 11:26 relates all the dangers of Paul's travels.
  - Ministry isn't for the faint of heart. Advancing the gospel will cost us.
  - Paul was going to get the gospel to them no matter what.
  - Paul crossed over mountains while sick. What keeps us from crossing the street?
- They went into the Jewish synagogue and sat down.
  - Ready made audience, receptive, loved Israel
  - Romans 10:1 - Paul's heart's desire and prayer for Israel was for their salvation.

#### 2. Paul's Sermon: God is faithful to His people and His promises. (13:15–25)

- V. 15 - Service - Shema (Deut. 6:4–9), Reading of Law/Prophets, sermon on the text
- Customary to ask a distinguished guest to preach\*\*
  - You've got to see this as the Holy Spirit at work.
  - Not merely gimmicks of man but the preparation of the Holy Spirit.
- V. 16 - Paul preached with his hands too
  - Paul preached the same gospel as Peter and Stephen.
  - He didn't change the message but perhaps a little more compassionate.
  - “Men of Israel” - Jews
  - “You who fear God” - proselytes
  - “Listen” - We believe the Bible is authoritative, the ultimate/final authority.

- Sermon could be titled the culmination of all of Israel's history.
  - Where is history going?
    - **All of history is headed to Christ's first and second coming.**
      - God created man for His glory and fellowship.
      - Sin broke that, but God promised a Savior.
  - History is headed towards its original intent.
    - God's glory and His fellowship with His creation
    - It's been inaugurated in the first coming.
    - It will be completely culminated in the second coming.
    - God's glory will reign supremely, and we will dwell with Him forever.
- God is the subject to almost every verb in this text.
  - God chose ... made
  - Led, put up with, gave, removed, raised up, brought, promised
- God chose them by His grace. (13:17)
  - Abraham, Issac, Jacob, Joseph
  - God made them great, despite the attempts of Egypt.
- God delivered them by His power (17b)
  - The Exodus
  - Uplifted arm - sign of power (Ex. 6:6, Deut. 5:15)
- God kept them in His provision (13:18–20a)
  - Deuteronomy 1:31
  - 40 years - their forgetfulness and God's faithfulness
  - 10 years of conquering Canaan
- God loved them despite their failures. (13:20b–22)
  - Despite their lack of trust in God and their desire to be like other nations
  - God's plan wasn't thwarted by their choices. Their desires didn't mess up His plan.
  - David wasn't perfect, but he sought to obey God.
- God brought the Savior He promised. (23)
  - God chose you. The enemy can't thwart the plans God has for you.
  - God delivered you by His power.
  - He is a patient Father for you.
  - Your failures don't have to define you.
  - God loves you despite your failures.
  - God has sent a Savior (have you missed him?)
- God was moving history to His purposes: His Glory and Fellowship with His people
- There was never a time from Abraham to Jesus that God wasn't running the show.
- Every step of the way
  - In times of bondage and wandering
  - In times of disobedience and times of failure
  - In the good times and in the bad times
- **God never left them to themselves!**

## **Small Group Discussion:**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you in the Scripture and sermon Sunday?
2. How does it encourage you to see Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark having conflict with one another like we do? How do we tend to handle conflict? Is there such thing as necessary conflict? What are some differences between necessary and unnecessary conflict?
3. How does Paul's determination to get to Asia Minor challenge you? Why do we struggle to persevere when we face obstacles?
4. What stood out to you in the first part of Paul's sermon? How is it encouraging to see that God always moves history along His purpose and plan?
5. God's purpose has always been His glory and fellowship with His creation through the Person and work of Jesus. How has God worked to bring this purpose about in the first coming of Christ? How will it be completed in Christ's second coming?
6. Spend time in prayer for one another. Pray that God will give us both boldness and perseverance in sharing the good news.