

May 3rd Bible Study

Please take out your Bible and turn to **Acts 13:13-52**. Skim through these verses and reread again as you go through each of the sections.

The application (vv. 38-41)

Paul says, *“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.”*

Who is Paul referring to as he mentions “this man”? _____

Who is Paul calling brothers in this verse? (*hint: go back*) _____

Here, Paul calls the people to repent. The call of repentance is through this one man who is Jesus Christ. Last week, we saw how all of Paul’s statements pointed to God’s plan in history to bring about salvation through Jesus Christ. Now Paul speaks to the Jews and God-fearers and gives them a chance to repent. In other words, you can be saved if you believe in him, you can be set free!

It’s important to note here, that Paul says something interesting as he points out the law of Moses. Paul makes note that the law is unable to free them. Instead, the only person and the only way to freedom is through Jesus Christ. The forgiveness, given by Jesus to believers, frees us from having to follow the law. Why? Because the law came due to the sinful nature of man. And now through the forgiveness given by Jesus the believer is now set free from the law and is given fellowship with God through the Spirit.

Today, if you believe in the gospel, you have been set free from the law and now you are able to fellowship with God through the Holy Spirit within you (Romans 8). It gets better because what Paul is saying is that we don’t have to do anything, in fact all we have to do is believe in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ was holy and perfect, and he was God in the form of man. He came into this world and obeyed God perfectly. And then he paid the price for our sins. Today, for us forgiveness is through whether or not we believe in Jesus and his works.

Do you believe in this gospel? If yes, Praise God! If not, then what are some of the things that you are doubting right now? In other words, what are causing you to not believe? Let’s take some time right now to pause and really check our heart. If there are questions you have in your heart, write them down below and let’s begin to pray through them.

Lord, I have doubts and questions in my heart. Would you counsel me through this moment right now? Teach me to believe in you and teach me to understand the gospel better than yesterday. In Christ name, Amen.

The next sabbath (vv. 42-47)

At this moment, Paul is done giving his message to the people. And Luke points to something changing in the people's hearts.

Why are the people begging? _____
After Paul's preaching, many Jews and devout converts followed Paul and Barnabas. They tell these people to continue in the _____ (v 43).

The following week, the whole city gathers to hear the word of the Lord. It seems as though everyone has heard of what Paul and Barnabas was teaching. And this has caused the Jews to be jealous and they began to contradict the teachings of Paul.

Time and time after again, we see that the Jews are always triggered in anger or jealousy through the proclamation or preaching of God's word. But Paul boldly speaks up and says three things:

- *"you thrust it [the gospel] aside"*
 - o This is rejection from the Jews.
- *"(you) judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life"*
 - o We learn rejection and lack of salvation are their responsibility. Also, salvation is equal to eternal life.
- *"we are turning to the Gentiles."*
 - o Paul turns and begins to preach to the Gentiles because the Jews have rejected his message.

Paul's ministry mirrors Jesus and the apostle's ministry. He is obedient to God's commission to make disciples and he is willing to get persecuted for this cause. And he perseveres by preaching not only to one group but to all.

What verse does Paul cite here? (*hint: look down in your Bible*) _____

In this passage, we see the servant's role in Isaiah. Paul quoting this Old Testament verse is stating that Barnabas and Paul are both commanded by the Lord to be the guide to the nations that lead them to the way of God. In an interesting way, Paul and Barnabas are

bringing salvation to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8), they have become the extension of the work of Jesus.

In the Old Testament being a servant of the Lord was this high and special task. Not many were able to receive this type of calling. We see Moses was called a servant of the Lord and so was Joshua. But, in the Old Testament, we see that they pointed to the ultimate servant, Jesus Christ. Today, because of what Jesus Christ has done, we have all become servants to Jesus Christ and we have been now commissioned to go out and do the work of the Lord. And this means we are to make disciples of all nations. We are to go out and be like Christ in this world. Today, we are all special servants because of what Christ has done.

What are some ways that we be servants of the Lord today? I mean this specifically, what can we do. For example, who can we share the gospel to? Who can we love today? And write how we can do these tasks. Let's try to be practical in this time as we are in quarantine as well.

Lord, help us to be better servants who glorify you to the ends of the earth! In Christ name we pray, Amen.

The impact (vv. 48-52)

We see in verse 48, many of the Gentiles have received eternal life through believe in the Lord. Luke begins to show us the impact of what God was doing through the proclaiming of his Word.

What ends up happening to Paul and Barnabas in the end of this passage?

How do Paul and Barnabas respond? _____

This response was a very symbolic act against those who opposed them. In Luke 9:5, we see that this was how Jesus told the disciples to act when they were rejected. And this symbol signified that they were now not responsible for the action of the town or city. It means that no trace of their presence is left even on the feet of the disciples. This was a judgment against those that have opposed Paul and Barnabas.

In today's passage, Paul and Barnabas are met with success and opposition. The Gentiles were turning to the Lord and the Jews were opposing the Lord. The word of God was moving from Antioch in Syria all the way to Iconium in Galatia.

This was the first detailed missionary speech made by Paul and ultimately this could have only been done through Christ. Because of what Christ has done for us, we are now able to go out and do all things for Christ's namesake.

In closing, can you take some time to pray for the missionaries around the world. Pray for those who are being persecuted for their faith. And pray for those who are opposing the gospel right now, may the Lord have mercy upon them.