

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 02.28.2021

THE GOOD NEWS – Acts 13:13-41

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

When Paul and Barnabas left Cyprus, they went to the area that is now called Turkey. Many Jews had moved to that area. When they reached the city of Antioch, Paul and Barnabas went first to the Jewish synagogue. Since they were visitors, they were invited to speak to the people. The sermon of Paul is very interesting and begins the first of three evangelistic sermons. Since he was speaking in a Jewish synagogue, he began with a short review of Jewish history. Then he showed that the coming of Christ was the most important event in the history of the Jews because the men of the Old Testament looked forward to the coming of Christ. With this introduction, Paul then went on to speak of the death and resurrection of Christ. Paul begins sharing God's plan of Redemption on the common ground for all Jews from Abraham to David, and his point is that Israel's election is not because of any special quality in Israel, but entirely on God's Grace alone! Some have observed that if God can endure the rebellion and stubbornness of the Jewish people, He can do the same with anyone! The Lord's Choosing of Israel became an opportunity to express His Tremendous Love to the whole world including the gentiles! Let's get into our lesson...

1. What struck you or stood out to you during this week's study?
2. What is the gospel? What does it mean to you?

At the Spirit's direction, the Antioch church commissioned Barnabas and Paul as missionaries (see 13:1-3). The missionaries' journey took them to Pisidian Antioch. Following their established method of evangelism, Paul and Barnabas went to the synagogue on the Sabbath. Acts 13:16-41 is Paul's first recorded sermon.

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 13:13-23

1. What happened at Perga and where did the missionaries go after Perga? (13:13-14)
2. What were Paul and his companions invited to do in the synagogue and what did he say? (13:14-15)
3. From verses 17-23, list all the things Paul says God has done. How do God's actions prepare the way for Paul to speak about Jesus in verse 23?
4. Look again at your list of actions. What do these things say about who God is, what He has done, and how He has provided for us?

After establishing God's control of history, Paul wanted to define the line of Messiah. The Jews in this synagogue would have picked up on the prophecies of Messiah. Paul chose to make the connection of Jesus to the Messiah with apparent emphasis on 2 Samuel 7:6-16.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 13:24-41

1. What were the key elements of Paul's gospel presentation in verses 28-37?

Visitation/Restoration in 2021

2. In verses 38-39, what does Paul say is the central meaning of the resurrection?

Throughout this section, Paul presents a fourfold Christian confession not unlike that which appears in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5: (1) Jesus was crucified. (2) He was buried in a tomb. (3) God raised Him from the dead. (4) He was seen by many witnesses. God kept His promise; the gospel has come, and the signature of that promise rests in the resurrection. What did that have to do with the listening crowd? It meant forgiveness of sins was being offered to them. Forgiveness of sins comes only through Jesus.

3. How would you explain to an unbeliever the need for forgiveness?
4. What are some specific ways Paul's sermon should impact our evangelism efforts today?

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Before we break it down, let us talk about Evangelism. "Evangelion" means Good News. It is preached through both Words and our Lives, TRUTH AND ACTION. The truth is there is no other kind of Evangelism than "lifestyle evangelism," for your life will either validate the truth or deny it! Evangelism is sharing the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God. Acts 1:8 "You shall be witnesses" - WE ARE WITNESSES 1) The Witness knows the facts and is willing to share with others. 2) The Witness is not ashamed of the Gospel and is always ready to take advantage of every opportunity. 3) The Witness in a court of law is a person who shares what they have personally seen or heard related to the case. They sit next to the judge! Jesus said go make disciples – not converts but disciples.

1. How did you come to a faith in Christ? Who followed God's leading to share the gospel with you?
2. How can sharing your story and what Christ has done in your life bring glory to God?
3. If you were to emphasize one central truth about the gospel in your evangelism efforts, what would it be?
4. Paul knew at the end of his life he would stand before God and give an account of his days. Read Psalm 90:12. How does the truth in this psalm and Paul's example impact how you see your personal responsibility to take the gospel to the world?

PRAYER - Close in prayer, thanking God for His power at work, transforming us into Jesus' image and working through us to bring more people to Him. Let's be intentional about sharing our story and the Gospel. It's been said evangelism is simply taking the initiative to share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God!

"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt. 28:18-20)