



<b>SERIES:</b>	44 Acts – 2017
<b>MESSAGE:</b>	<b>Acts 13:16-14:28</b>
<b>SPEAKER:</b>	Skip Heitzig
<b>SCRIPTURE:</b>	Acts 13:16-14:28

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

Paul and Barnabas had a specific format to their missionary work: they preached first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. In this message, we examine Paul's first recorded sermon and the response it received. We learn the importance of being anchored in Scripture and centered on God's promises when sharing the gospel with others.

## DETAILED NOTES

### I. Introduction

- A. First recorded sermon of the apostle Paul
  - 1. He was about ten years old in the Lord
  - 2. He preached in the synagogue
- B. His motto was "First to the Jew, then to the Gentile"
  - 1. He always preached to the Jewish community first
  - 2. He then preached to the Gentiles
- C. Every synagogue had a format
  - 1. Began with prayer: *shama* (*heard*)
  - 2. Reading from the Law, the Torah
  - 3. Reading from the *haftarah*
  - 4. Rabbinical commentary on the text: *drasha*
- D. Paul's message was the rabbinical commentary

### II. Acts 13:16-23

- A. Paul began with a history of Israel, starting with Egypt and ending with Christ
  - 1. Natural transition
  - 2. Jesus was related to King David
- B. The way Paul preached
  - 1. Anchored in Scripture
    - a. Later, Paul instructed Timothy to preach the Word (see 2 Timothy 4:2)
    - b. He did not instruct him to preach his own opinion or what people want to hear
  - 2. Centered on promise
    - a. Paul showed how God delivered them
    - b. He also showed how God kept His promise by sending Jesus
    - c. In the Old Testament, God promised Israel would be a light to the Gentiles (see Isaiah 42:6; 49:6)

- I. One of the reasons God chose the Jews, delivered them, and brought them to the land of Israel was so they could take the knowledge of God and spread it to the world
- II. They failed, regarding themselves as chosen and everyone else as not chosen
- III. Because they failed, God sent His Son Jesus to be the Light of the World

### III. Acts 13:24-41

- A. To preach the gospel is to preach glad tidings
  1. The gospel is good news
  2. When we share with people, we should share like it really is good news
  3. Paul stated that by believing in Jesus' death and resurrection, they could be justified in all the things in which the law of Moses could not justify them
    - a. This was earth-shattering to them
    - b. They loved and revered the Law, thinking it could save them
  4. Paul developed this idea further in the books of Romans and Galatians
    - a. He was saying that the Law, though good, could not do what they thought it could do
    - b. The Law is good because it reveals that you are a sinner (see Romans 7:7)
    - c. It cannot cleanse you from your sin
    - d. The Law was a schoolmaster—*paidagógos* (see Galatians 3:23-24)
    - e. Romans 5:1
- B. Paul referenced Habakkuk 1:5
  1. Habakkuk complained to God because the nation of Israel was sinful
  2. God told him that He would raise up the Babylonians to destroy the land and judge the people
  3. Paul based the entire book of Romans on what Habakkuk said to the people from God: "The just shall live by faith" (see Habakkuk 2:4)

### IV. Acts 13:42-43

- A. The Gentiles begged Paul to preach these words again
  1. They had never heard the gospel of grace before
  2. They were God-fearing people who attended synagogue and had heard what they should and should not do, but this was their first encounter with the simplicity of being saved by faith
- B. "In the *grace* of God" (v. 43, emphasis added)
  1. Not the *law* of God (see John 1:17)
  2. Most people cannot handle the pure gospel of grace
    - a. They think it gives them license to do whatever they want
    - b. Or they think they still have to work for their salvation
- C. The gospel of grace does two things
  1. It reveals the utter helplessness of our condition
  2. It shows us the unlimited favor God is willing to bestow on us

### V. Acts 13:44-52

- A. Whenever God does a work, the Devil too does a work
  1. When Nehemiah worked to rebuild the wall in Jerusalem, Sanballat and Tobiah worked against him

2. When you find the work of God, don't be surprised to find the work of the Devil also
  3. Some people take opposition to mean that God is not in whatever they are doing
    - a. Pray about it
    - b. Learn to recognize what is satanic opposition and what is God leading you in another direction
    - c. The more effective you are in service, the more of a target you are
- B. The Jews rejected Paul and Barnabas
1. So Paul and Barnabas "shook off the dust from their feet" (v. 51)
    - a. Expression of breaking fellowship (see Luke 9:5)
    - b. Since the Jews rejected the gospel, they took it to the Gentiles
  2. They went to Iconium
    - a. In the region of Galatia
    - b. Eighty miles away
- C. Paul's physical appearance
1. *The Acts of Paul*
    - a. Written in the second century by Onesiphorus
    - b. Small in size with meeting eyebrows, large nose, bald head, bowlegged, strongly built, and full of grace
  2. God looks at the heart (see 1 Samuel 16:7)
- D. They were filled with the Holy Spirit
1. They were joyful though they had been persecuted
  2. If you get persecuted, make sure you are getting persecuted for righteousness' sake

## VI. Acts 14:1-28

- A. They taught in the synagogue and people believed
1. They "so spoke...[and they] believed" (v. 1)
    - a. This implies that one can so speak and people will not believe
    - b. There is right way to do it and a wrong way to do it
  2. The greatest enemies to the gospel are the narrow-minded, unsaved religious people
- B. Is apostleship still an office for today?
1. No, in the strict sense
    - a. There were and are only twelve apostles
    - b. Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:20
    - c. Paul is called an apostle (see 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1)
  2. Yes, in a general sense
    - a. The word *apostle* shows up seventy-five times in the New Testament, referring to people other than the twelve
    - b. Timothy, Barnabas, and others
    - c. *Apostolos* = a messenger, one sent on a mission
- C. When the people attempted to stone them, they fled
1. They were bold and wise
  2. Jesus gave this instruction as well (see Matthew 10:23)

3. Our approach to people in our evangelism needs to be tailored to their response to it
  - a. Matthew 7:6
  - b. Gauge people's response to your sharing of the gospel
- D. They fled to Lystra
  1. Lois and Eunice lived there—the mother and grandmother of Timothy
  2. It was probably during this visit that Lois, Eunice, and Timothy got saved
- E. They healed a man who was lame in his feet
  1. The people supposed them to be gods and wanted to sacrifice to them
  2. A Roman poet named Ovid had alleged in a story that the gods Zeus and Hermes came down to Lystra
    - a. When the people failed to provide food and lodging for them, they destroyed the entire town
    - b. They spared a man named Philemon and his wife
    - c. The people, believing this legend, probably did not want to make that same mistake
- F. Paul knew his audience
  1. When Paul preached to the people of Lystra, he did not begin with the Bible
  2. When he preached in the synagogue, he began with the Bible because they knew the Bible
  3. Jesus approached people in different ways as well (see John 4:1-28)
- G. They stoned Paul
  1. He rose up and went back into the city
  2. He was persistent

**Figures referenced:** John Calvin, Onesiphorus, Ovid, Charles Spurgeon

**Works referenced:** *The Acts of Paul*

**Greek/Hebrew words:** apostolos, drasha, haftarah, paidagógos, shama

**Cross references:** 1 Samuel 16:7; Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Habakkuk 1:5; 2:4; Matthew 7:6; 10:23; Luke 9:5; John 1:17; 4:1-28; Acts 2:42; Romans 5:1; 7:7; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; 3:23-24; Ephesians 1:1; 2:20; Colossians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1; 4:2

**Topic:** Evangelism

**Keywords:** sermon, Gentiles, preaching, gospel, good news, salvation, the Law, opposition, persecution, boldness, wisdom