

“What Will You Do With Jesus?”
Acts 13:14-43

Introduction:

1. Tonight - We Are Going To Get Back To:
 - Our ***Journey Through Acts***:
 - So - Please Turn In Your Bibles With Me:
 - To Acts 13 - Where The Last Time We Were Here:
 - Paul & Barnabas Were Finishing Up The First Leg Of Their:
 - First Missionary Journey - In The Island Country Of Cyprus! *
 - And - It Is Clear - That The Lord:
 - Blessed Their Ministry & Their Work:
 - By Opening The Heart Of:
 - Sergius Paulus - Who Was The “Deputy Of That Country!” (13:7)
2. Well - On The Second Leg:
 - Of Their Journey - We Read In:
 - 13:13 - “Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem!” *
 - Perga Was A Major City On The Main-Land Of What Is Today - The Country Of Turkey:
 - And Was Able To Reached By Boat Up The Cestris River - From The Main Port Of The Mediterranean Sea!
 - Here Is What Perga Looks Like Today! * (3x)
 - For Some Reason - Paul & Barnabas:
 - Did Not Stay In Perga Very Long:
 - But Instead - Used It To Prepare Them:
 - For Their Entry Into The Ancient Region Of Phrygia & Galatia - Which We Will Learn More About In The Coming Weeks!
 - And So - In 13:14 - “But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down!”
 - Here Is The Location Of Antioch In Pisidia: *
 - In The Very Heart Of Asia Minor!
 - And Here Are Some Of Its Ruins! * (2x)
 - In Early Christian History, A Church Was Built Over An Ancient Jewish Synagogue:
 - Which Was Reported To Be The Same Synagogue Where Paul & Barnabas “Sat Down” On That First Sabbath Day - And Were Given An Incredible Opportunity!
3. We Read About This Opportunity Next In:
 - 13:15 - “And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on!”
 - Here Are The Ruins Of That Old Church: * (2x)
 - Which Was Built Over The Ruins Of That Old Synagogue:
 - Where Paul Then Preached The Greatest “Word Of Exhortation” That Those People Ever Heard!
 - The Message Of The Gospel - Because:
 - 13:16 - “Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience!”
 - In That Jewish Synagogue:
 - Not Only Were There Jews:
 - “Men Of Israel!”
 - But There Were Also Gentiles:
 - Who Were Learning To “Fear God!”
 - So This Message Was Not Just For Jews:
 - But For Everyone!
4. And Paul’s Message Was A Powerful Message!
 - And Extends From 13:16 To 13:41!
 - And In His Message - There Are Three Main Points:
 - That He Brings Out About The Gospel!

* The First Main Point Was:

1. The Promise Of A Savior!

- From 13:16-23 - Paul Begins His Message:
 - With A Summary Of The History Of God's Chosen People:
 - The Children Of Israel!
 - Which Most Of Them Would Be Familiar With – Because In That Synagogue, The Law & The Prophets Were Read Every Single Week!
 - But The Purpose Of His History Lesson Is This:
 - He Wanted Them – And Us – To Remember Some Things!
 - So - When It Comes To The Gospel - We Need To Remember:
- The Great Faithfulness Of God!
 - Which God Showed To His People From The Very Beginning!
 - 13:16-22 - “Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience. / 17 The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it. / 18 And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness. / 19 And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot. / 20 And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. / 21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. / 22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will!”
 - When You Read Through This Brief History:
 - Two Things Stand Out:
 - God Is The Subject & His Grace Is The Theme!
 - Although Many Years Are Covered In These Verses:
 - And Many Events:
 - And Many Changes For The People Of Israel:
 - God Remains The Subject!
 - And God Remains The Same!
 - And - Everything That God Does In These Verses:
 - Is An Act Of His Grace & His Goodness:
 - To His People!
 - He Chose Them - Because Of His Grace!
 - He Exalted Them - Because Of His Grace!
 - He Suffered Their Manners - Because Of His Grace!
 - All Throughout This History:
 - Paul Wants Us To Remember:
 - The Great Faithfulness Of God!
 - But - We Also Need To Remember:
- The Great Failures Of Men!
 - Through All Of The Years Covered In This Brief History:
 - God Remains Faithful:
 - Even Though His People Prove Faithless & Sinful Over & Over Again!
 - In Fact - Each Period Of Israel's History:
 - Shows Our Own Great Need:
 - Of God & His Grace!
 - The Period Of The Patriarchs – Mentioned In 13:17:
 - Was Marked By The Failure Of Men!
 - Even Abraham & Isaac & Jacob:
 - Were “Jars Of Clay” & Sinners In Need Of God's Grace & Forgiveness!
 - The Period Of The Exodus – Also Mentioned In 13:17-18:
 - Was Marked By The Failure Of Men!
 - Even Though Moses Was A Man Of God:
 - And Chosen By God To Lead His People Out Of Egypt – He Too Was A Sinner!
 - The Period Of The Conquest – Mentioned In 13:19:
 - Was Marked By The Failure Of Men!

- Though Led By Joshua:
 - Many Times They Still Did Not Obey God Fully!
- The Period Of The Judges – Mentioned In 13:20:
 - Was Marked By The Failure Of Men!
 - The Constant Cycle Of Rebellion Shows:
 - How Much We All Need A Faithful God & A Savior!
- And Even The Period Of The Kings – Mentioned In 13:21-22:
 - Was Marked By The Failure Of Men!
 - Saul, Of Course!
 - But Even King David!
- Through All Of These Periods Of Israel’s History:
 - The Great Failure Of Men Is Clear!
 - All Are Sinners!
 - All Need A Savior!
 - And Yet, God Remains Faithful!
- And That Led Paul To The Next & Most Important Thing To Remember:
- The Great Fulfillment Of Jesus!
 - 13:22 - “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will!”
 - There Is A Special Focus On David In This Verse!
 - Because Although David Was A Sinner:
 - He Did Repent & Trusted In The Lord & His Grace For Forgiveness For His Sin!
 - And So God Highlights His Own Work Of Grace:
 - In David’s Life!
 - God Chose David!
 - God Changed David!
 - God Made A Promise To David!
 - About One To Come!
 - And Once Again - God Faithfully Keeps His Promise:
 - To David! To His People!
 - And To Us!
 - 13:23 - “Of this man’s seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Savior, Jesus!”
 - Jesus Is The Fulfilment Of:
 - God’s Faithfulness & Grace!
 - Jesus Is The Fulfilment Of:
 - Our Great Need For A Savior!
 - Jesus Is The Fulfilment Of:
 - His Own Promise To David!
 - Only Jesus:
 - Could Do:
 - What Noone Else Could!
- It Has Been Said That:
 - “Those Who Forget History Are Doomed To Repeat It!”
 - So - There Are Still Lessons From This Brief History:
 - In Paul’s Message:
 - That We Need To Learn!
 - That We Need To Remember!
 - The Great Promise Of A Savior!
 - But Then Paul Adds A Second Point To His Message - And That Is:

2. ***The Provision Of A Savior!***

- Which We Will See In 13:24-37!
 - A Savior Has Been Provided – In Jesus!
 - This Is The Central Message Of The Gospel!
 - And This Is Why Paul Reveals That:
- The Word Of Salvation Was Affirmed!
 - 13:23-26 - “Of this man’s seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: / 24

- When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. / 25 And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose. / 26 Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent!”
- Here - The Word Of Salvation Is Affirmed:
 - By None Other Than - John The Baptist!
 - The Jews There In Antioch Would Have Known About John The Baptist, And Would Have Had Great Respect For John The Baptist!
 - And So Paul Shows That The Ministry & Message Of John The Baptist:
 - Affirms & Confirms His Message:
 - About Jesus!
 - That God Used The Ministry Of John:
 - To Not Only Prepare For The Coming Of Jesus:
 - By Preaching & Practicing The Baptism Of Repentance!
 - But Also:
 - To Point To The Coming Of Jesus!
 - Which He Did - When He Announced To The World - “Behold The Lamb Of God, Which Taketh Away The Sin Of The World!” (John 1:29)
 - But Paul Adds His Own Affirmation:
 - In 13:26 - “Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent!”
 - So - The “Word Of Salvation”:
 - Has Never Changed!
 - It Was The Message Of John The Baptist!
 - It Is The Message Of The Apostle Paul!
 - And It Is – And Always Has Been:
 - The Message About Jesus! Also See That:
 - The Word Of Salvation Was Actualized:
 - In 13:27-31 - “For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. / 28 And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. / 29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. / 30 But God raised him from the dead: / 31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people!”
 - Here - The Word Of Salvation Is Actualized:
 - In Jesus!
 - Jesus Is The One That Brought The Promise Of Salvation To Pass!
 - In 13:27 - Through His Prophecies!
 - Even Though They Rejected Jesus:
 - By Rejecting The Prophecies About Him:
 - They Fulfilled Those Same Prophecies:
 - When They Condemned Jesus To Death!
 - And So - The Promise Of Salvation:
 - Came To Pass:
 - In The Pain Of Jesus:
 - On The Cross! (13:28-29)
 - In The Power Of Jesus:
 - Through His Resurrection (13:30-31)
 - But We Can Also See That:
 - The Word Of Salvation Was Accomplished!
 - 13:32-37 - “And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, / 33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. / 34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. / 35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. / 36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: / 37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption!”

- Here We See - The Word Of Salvation Accomplished:
 - By The Faithfulness Of God!
- God Was Faithful To His Promise!
 - And To The Promise He Made “Unto The Fathers!” (13:32-33)
- God Was Faithful To His People!
 - 13:34 - To Provide The “Sure Mercies Of David!”
 - And Holy Blessings - Like Redemption / Pardon From Sin / Regeneration / Salvation / Eternal Life!
- God Was Faithful To His Son!
 - 13:35-37 - To Raise Him From The Dead & To Not See Corruption In The Grave!
- And So - In Jesus:
 - All Of God’s Promises Were Kept!
 - So That All Of God’s People Could Be Blessed!
 - And This Is The Word Of Salvation!
 - The Message Of Jesus:
 - And His Life / His Death / His Burial / His Resurrection!
 - Has Never Changed!
 - And This Leads Paul To His Third Main Point:

3. *The Purpose Of A Savior!*

- Which We Hear About In Verses 38-43!
 - The Purpose Of The Savior!
- And As Paul Concludes This Message:
 - He Brings His Audience To A Point Of Decision!
 - And, In Essence, Asks Them This Question:
 - ***What Will You Do With Jesus?***
 - How Will You Respond To This Message?
 - Will You Believe In This Gospel – This Good News:
 - And Be Saved From Your Sin?
 - ***What Will You Do With Jesus?***
 - You Need To Remember & Believe That:
- There Is Great Wealth In The Gospel!
 - In 13:38-39 - Paul Begins His Final Plea - “Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: / And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses!”
 - After Telling Them All About Jesus:
 - And What He Has Accomplished Through His Life, His Death, His Burial & His Resurrection:
 - He Urges Them – And Us – To Know The Truth!
 - The Truth About:
 - The Cleansing Of The Gospel!
 - And The Forgiveness He Offers! (13:38)
 - The Completion Of The Gospel!
 - So That - Not Only Are Your Sins Completely Forgiven:
 - But They Are Forever Forgotten! (13:39)
 - The Condition Of The Gospel!
 - 13:39 - “All That Believe!”
 - The Condition – And The Only Condition – Of The Gospel Is This:
 - We Must Believe!
 - And - ***All*** Of The Wealth Of The Gospel Is Offered To:
 - “***All***” That Believe!
 - So - This Is An Offer / An Invitation:
 - To Everyone!
 - So - What Have You Done With Jesus?
 - Have You Believed?
 - Are You Believing In All Of These Truths About Jesus?
 - Also - You Need To Remember & Believe:
- There Is A Great Warning With The Gospel!
 - Found In 13:40- “Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; /

- Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you!”
- This Is A Different Kind Of Invitation Than We Are Used To!
 - **IE:** I’ve Heard Some Invitations Where The People Are Told To Just “Give Jesus A Try!”
 - But That Is Not How Paul Puts His Invitation!
 - ***His Invitation Is A Warning!***
 - He Says:
 - Don’t Become The Fulfillment:
 - Of God’s Prophecy Given About Those Who Do Not Believe!
 - We See Here:
 - A Personal Responsibility & A Personal Risk!
 - If A Person Does Not Believe In The Gospel:
 - They Will Experience God’s Judgment!
 - Now - That’s An Invitation!
 - And That Is Where Paul Ends His Message!
 - What Will You Do With Jesus?
 - Will You Believe?
 - Or Will You Reject & Despise:
 - And Become The Fulfillment Of This Prophecy Of God’s Judgment!
 - The Plea Is Not:
 - To Just “Try” Jesus!
 - But To Go “All In” - And “Believe With All Thine Heart!”
 - But Then What?
 - There Is A Great Walk Through The Gospel!
 - 13:42-43 - “And when the Jews (Or Paul & Barnabas) were gone out of the synagogue (Of The Jews), the Gentiles (Or The People) besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. / Now when the congregation was broken up (Dismissed), many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God!”
 - Here We See A Mixed Response To Paul’s Message!
 - Many Rejected The Message Of The Gospel!
 - But There Were Others - Who:
 - Did Respond & Did Believe!
 - And Through Their Response:
 - We See What It Should Be Like:
 - Even After You Believe In Jesus & Are Saved From Your Sin!
 - You Should Walk:
 - With A Passion For The Truth!
 - Even As Many Who Heard Paul Speak - 13:42 - “Besought That These Words Might Be Preached To Them The Next Sabbath!”
 - And Likely Throughout The Week As Well!
 - They Wanted To Hear More!
 - And This Should Be Our Response As Well!
 - What Are We Doing With Jesus?
 - Is There A Passion In Our Hearts:
 - For More? Also:
 - You Should Walk:
 - In Pursuit Of The Truth!
 - Many Who Heard Paul Speak Also:
 - 13:43 - “Followed Paul And Barnabas!”
 - They Knew Who Had The Truth:
 - And They Wanted To Be With Them!
 - They Were Willing To Follow Them As They Followed Christ!
 - And This Should Continue To Be Our Response As Well!
 - What Are We Doing With Jesus?
 - Are We Pursuing After Him & His Truth?
 - Through His Word?
 - In Fellowship With His People?
 - What Else Should We Do?

- You Should Walk:
 - Persevering In The Truth!
 - How Do We Know That Those Who Followed Paul & Barnabas Truly Believed In Jesus?
 - Because - In 13:43 - They “Persuaded Them To Continue In The Grace Of God!”
 - Stay With Him!
 - Remain & Abide In Him!
 - Don’t Leave His Truth!
 - “Continue In The Grace Of God!”
 - “No Turning Back! No Turning Back!”

Conclusion:

1. What An Excellent & Thorough:
 - Message Paul Preached:
 - In That Synagogue - There In Antioch Of Pisidia!
 - And There Is So Much We Can Learn:
 - About How *We* Ought To Communicate The Gospel To Others!
2. But For Tonight - I Want You To See:
 - That These Questions Are Still Relevant For Us Today!
 - What *Have* You Done With Jesus?
 - And - What *Will* You Do With Jesus?
2. If You Have Not Yet Believed:
 - The Warning Still Applies:
 - If You Do Not Believe:
 - You Will Wonder & Perish!
3. But If You Are Believing:
 - What Are You Doing With Jesus Today?
 - Are You “Continuing In The Grace Of God?”
 - Having Been Forgiven:
 - Having Been Justified:
 - Is There Still A Passion & A Love:
 - For Jesus & His Truth?
 - Is There Still A Pursuit:
 - After Jesus & His Word?
 - Is There Still A Perseverance:
 - In Jesus & His Life?
 - What Will You Do With Jesus Tonight?

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