

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

9/16/18

Text: Acts 13:1-12 (ESV)

Title: The Flourishing Church

Teacher: Paul Hahn

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

Paul Hahn, who grew up in Lakeland and works as the Coordinator for Mission to North America, brought us an encouraging message looking at how the gospel can flourish in a community. As we heard from him, in the midst of our bent toward selfishness, pride, and maintenance of the status quo, the gospel flourishes because of the work of God's Spirit in the lives and hearts of His people to bring about Generosity, Creativity and Humility. Because of the amazing love and grace of God, His people can live and minister in the world, because they know the true, amazing value of the gospel they hold, and they can't wait to do all in their power to share it with those who don't yet know the Lord.

Reflection Questions:

- 1. Flourishing Through Gospel Generosity: Just like the early church's generosity with Barnabas and Saul, when we realize the true value of the Gospel, we have to give it away. Both as a church and individually we ought to live and think beyond ourselves to be radically generous the way God has been with us. (with our \$, people, time...etc.)*
 - What or who holds great value in your life that would be hard for you to let go of for the work of the gospel?**
 - Who are the people (neighbors/(hoods), family, coworkers...) that would be hardest to be generous to? Pray for the Spirit to change your heart toward them.**
- 2. Flourishing Through Gospel Creativity: Paul said the church in Antioch were the first ones to be called "Christians." Because they were living so differently, "Christ-Followers" was the only appropriate name for them.*
 - In what areas have you tried to maintain a "status quo" so that you can continue to live/work the way you want to? (Family, \$, status, work, kids events...)**
 - How does the work you do and the way you spend your time on a regular basis serve God's kingdom and the Gospel? How could it if you thought creatively?**
- 3. Flourishing Through Gospel Humility: As Paul said, for the Gospel to flourish I have to be willing to be brought as low as God wants me to go, so that His Gospel could go out. Quoting Paul Tripp he said, "God will take you where you haven't intended to go in order to produce in you what you could not have achieved on your own."*
 - Where is God calling you to go and you've been resistant?**
 - The Gospel couldn't reach the world without going through Antioch. Where could the gospel go if it could go through you? (Pray for those people)**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving Thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart from this sermon.)

1. ADORATION *(The Father)*

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION *(Me)*

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING *(Jesus)*

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION *(Holy Spirit)*

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

5. Prepare for Gospel Community *(My Neighbor)*

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Prayer Items

1. Worship the LORD, God almighty, for His worth and beauty. Praise and adore Him that He deserves all our labor - for how He has worked for us and that it is good to work hard for Him and His people.
2. How have you been lazy or neglectful of the mission He has called you into? Confess your failure and rebellion against Jesus for the work He has given you to do - and ask Him for mercy to be forgiven and changed at heart.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for doing everything necessary so heartily to deliver us from Satan's domination. Thank Him for His power in the resurrection so that our greatest threat would be destroyed and that we can have hope in the work He has given us to do.
4. Who do you know that does not live thinking of the wellbeing of others? Pray for them, asking the Lord to help them and fill them with His power so that they can help others grow to maturity in Christ. Pray that God would mature more believers in Trinity to become leaders.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften your heart and disposition toward God and those you could help to grow. Pray for the Spirit's work to soften the hearts of those you would seek to lead to Jesus.