

Acts of the Apostles

31 – Too Small a Thing

Acts 13.44-14.7

Faithful to the Gospel

- Content: life and death
 - That's the reason they bothered speaking out
- Contour: outward bent
 - Isaiah 49 – it's too small a thing for the people of God to be revived
 - Why? Because God is too glorious and the News is too Good!
 - Revival in -> Reaching out!
 - There are racial (Rev 7) and moral (1 Cor 6) consequences of going to "the Gentiles"

Bottom line: if we stay quiet when a word is needed, we say the Gospel isn't true

Joyful in Endurance

- Persecution will come
 - Don't be surprised – it'll come from all kinds of places (here religious, in our day secular)
 - Your joy and fidelity is a sign to them of the truth of the Gospel and the impending judgment (Phil. 1)
- Power will be available
 - Sings and wonders / strength to keep walking / light that penetrates darkness
 - Power to escape
 - Power to keep proclaiming the Gospel – nothing changes, whether easy or hard

Bottom line: if we quit too early or when it's hard, we say the Gospel isn't true

Questions for Discussion

1. What is the smallest thing you have ever been in a fight over? With whom? How did it end?
2. Throughout the NT, there are summaries of the Gospel written by Paul. Some passages include: 1 Cor. 15.3-5, 2 Cor. 5.14-17, Gal. 1.4, Eph. 2.1-10, Col. 2.13-15, 1 Thes. 1.9-10, 1 Tim. 2.3-6, etc. Pick 3-4 of those passages and then reflect on what they have in common and what Paul says different in the passages.
3. In the sermon, Trent stated over and over again that the Gospel bends us outward. What does that mean in your life? Where does that need to be applied in your life? Which is more likely to keep you from "bending outward," a racial hurdle or a moral one in those you're trying to share Jesus with? (see sermon notes above)

4. Why do you think it's important to talk about persecution as part of the Christian life? Read 2 Tim. 3.12. Now read Philippians 1.29. Why do you think Paul calls it a "grace" (granted to you, but literal translation is "graced to you") to suffer for Jesus' sake?
5. What's your biggest point of endurance right now? How would you gauge your level of joy in it? What kind of power do you need to keep moving forward?