

Acts of the Apostles

30 – It's a Good Story

Acts 13.13-43

It's an old story

- God has been telling it for a long time
- If God hasn't finished this story, what about yours?

It's a hero story

- Interesting characters abound
- One hero emerges
 - He's not flawed (unlike Marvel / DC)
 - We want a hero to believe in – points to a deeper longing (a hero worthy of the title)
 - The hero makes a profound comeback, overcoming incredible odds, to help the people with their deepest needs
 - Not political situation – Rome
 - Not personal situation – HWP
 - But sin problem
 - No one but our hero can do this – not Moses, not David (they're dead) but Jesus is alive

It's our story

- Forgiveness (v.38)
 - We don't get some forgiveness in Jesus – we get all the forgiveness we need (Col. 2.13-14)
- Freedom (v.39)
 - God not only forgives us for our sin but He also frees us from our past (1 Cor. 6.9-11)
- These are *only* ours by faith (v.41) – trusting what God has said and done in Jesus for us

Questions for Discussion

1. What's your favorite family story from your family of origin or current family? Why?
2. What is one lie you're prone to believe about your life's story? (i.e. Because my parents divorced, I'm probably going to end up divorced too)
3. Reread Acts 13.26-37. What hero-like qualities do you see in the story that Paul tells about Jesus? Why do you think he includes David (and Moses, Abraham, and others earlier) in his message?

4. Paul ends his message with a declaration of forgiveness in Jesus. Read Colossians 2.13-14. How did God accomplish the forgiveness of sins (and sinners!) and still remain holy and just? Why is this so critical to the message we understand and get to share?
5. Paul also taught that in Jesus, we are freed from “what the law of Moses couldn’t” free us from. What kind of freedom does Jesus bring? What is one place where God has set you free in Jesus? What is one place where you need Him to liberate you?