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ACTS

Chapter 13:13-52
IF YOU WONT LISTEN....

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In our last study in the book of Acts – Sergius Paulus – the proconsul to the Roman governor gave his heart to the Lord.
 - 1. I would like to remind you that this is the Apostle Paul’s first missionary journey.
 - 2. He started in Antioch where they were gathered in prayer and the Lord separated him and Barnabas and sent them out.
 - a) I want to refer you back to **verse 13** – and you will see that John Mark was with them for a short time – then turn back and went home.
 - b) They traveled from there down to Seleucia: then set sail for the island of Cyprus, where the first city they hit on the island was Salamis.
 - (1) Then they preached in the synagogues.
 - (2) This was pretty much Paul’s “MO”.
 - c) From there they traveled to Paphos and that is where they met Elymas the sorcerer and Sergius Paulus.
- B. We pick up our story as they set sail once again from Paphos to Perga in the region of Pamphylia.
 - 1. When they arrive in Perga, they decide to press on a bit further north to the city of Antioch in the region of Pysidia.
 - a) It is there that Paul gives the following exhortation in the local synagogue.

II. **ACT 13:13-15 NKJV** NOW WHEN PAUL AND HIS PARTY SET SAIL FROM PAPHOS, THEY CAME TO PERGA IN PAMPHYLIA; AND JOHN, DEPARTING FROM THEM, RETURNED TO JERUSALEM. (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. (15) AND AFTER THE READING OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS, THE RULERS OF THE SYNAGOGUE SENT TO THEM, SAYING, "MEN **AND** BRETHREN, IF YOU HAVE ANY WORD OF EXHORTATION FOR THE PEOPLE, SAY ON."

- A. That is like asking a pastor if he has anything to say about the Lord or the bible!
 - 1. Of course Paul had something to say! That was the reason the Lord sent them on this trip.
 - a) So, he preached:
 - 2. Oh by-the-way, we are not told why John Mark left the mission, but Paul wasn’t very happy about it.
 - a) There are a couple of things we can be sure of though:
 - (1) John Mark was not mature enough “yet” for this mission – and that later on he and Paul reconcile their differences.

3. Also, there were 7 different cities in the area named Antioch at the time, and this one would have been in what we call modern day Turkey.

III. ACT 13:16 NKJV THEN PAUL STOOD UP, AND MOTIONING WITH *HIS* HAND SAID, "MEN OF ISRAEL, AND YOU WHO FEAR GOD, LISTEN:

- A. And here we see early evidence that an effective preacher must use his hands to communicate! ;^)
1. We must remember – Paul is in a synagogue! He wisely starts with Jewish tradition and works from there.
2. When you have time please go back and read Stephen exhortation before he was stoned.
 - a) You will find many similarities between his and what you are about to hear from Paul.
 - b) It would seem that Stephen’s dying words had a great impact on Paul!

IV. ACT 13:17-20 NKJV THE GOD OF THIS PEOPLE ISRAEL CHOSE OUR FATHERS, AND EXALTED THE PEOPLE WHEN THEY DWELT AS STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT, AND WITH AN UPLIFTED ARM HE BROUGHT THEM OUT OF IT. (18) NOW FOR A TIME OF ABOUT FORTY YEARS HE PUT UP WITH THEIR WAYS IN THE WILDERNESS. (19) AND WHEN HE HAD DESTROYED SEVEN NATIONS IN THE LAND OF CANAAN, HE DISTRIBUTED THEIR LAND TO THEM BY ALLOTMENT. (20) "AFTER THAT HE GAVE *THEM* JUDGES FOR ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS, UNTIL SAMUEL THE PROPHET.

- A. These 450 years is respectively 400 years in Egyptian slavery, 40 years in the wilderness, and 10 years to conquer the land of Canaan.
 1. They made a lot of bricks in Egypt! *"Using only the bricks from the pyramids, sphinxes, and monuments that remain today, a person could build a wall ten feet thick and fifteen feet high that would stretch from Medford, Oregon, to Brooklyn, New York."* Jon Courson

V. ACT 13:21-22 NKJV AND AFTERWARD THEY ASKED FOR A KING; SO GOD GAVE THEM SAUL THE SON OF KISH, A MAN OF THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN, FOR FORTY YEARS. (22) AND WHEN HE HAD REMOVED HIM, HE RAISED UP FOR THEM DAVID AS KING, TO WHOM ALSO HE GAVE TESTIMONY AND SAID, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL.'

- A. So far, so good!
 1. So far Paul hasn’t said anything that would ruffle the “feathers” of his audience.
 - a) They could have said, “Amen” – to it all. But – Paul was only laying a foundation for Jesus.

VI. ACT 13:23-27 NKJV FROM THIS MAN'S SEED, ACCORDING TO *THE* PROMISE, GOD RAISED UP FOR ISRAEL A SAVIOR—JESUS— (24) AFTER JOHN HAD FIRST PREACHED, BEFORE HIS COMING, THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. (25) AND AS JOHN WAS FINISHING HIS COURSE, HE SAID, 'WHO DO YOU THINK I AM? I AM NOT *HE*. BUT BEHOLD, THERE COMES ONE AFTER

ME, THE SANDALS OF WHOSE FEET I AM NOT WORTHY TO LOOSE.' (26) "MEN **AND** BRETHREN, SONS OF THE FAMILY OF ABRAHAM, AND THOSE AMONG YOU WHO FEAR GOD, TO YOU THE WORD OF THIS SALVATION HAS BEEN SENT. (27) FOR THOSE WHO DWELL IN JERUSALEM, AND THEIR RULERS, BECAUSE THEY DID NOT KNOW HIM, NOR EVEN THE VOICES OF THE PROPHETS WHICH ARE READ EVERY SABBATH, HAVE FULFILLED **THEM** IN CONDEMNING **HIM**.

A. Paul goes from "the seed of David", to "the Lord sent a Savior and that Savior is Jesus"!

1. John the Baptist pointed to Jesus.
2. And Paul goes on to tell them that the "big-wigs" in Jerusalem missed Him.
 - a) He says they read the scriptures every Sabbath, that foretells of Jesus' coming but they missed Him anyway.
 - (1) In fact they became a part of prophecy by condemning Him to death as scripture predicted they would!

VII. **ACT 13:28-32 NKJV** AND THOUGH THEY FOUND NO CAUSE FOR DEATH **IN HIM**, THEY ASKED PILATE THAT HE SHOULD BE PUT TO DEATH. (29) NOW WHEN THEY HAD FULFILLED ALL THAT WAS WRITTEN CONCERNING HIM, THEY TOOK **HIM** DOWN FROM THE TREE AND LAID **HIM** IN A TOMB. (30) BUT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. (31) HE WAS SEEN FOR MANY DAYS BY THOSE WHO CAME UP WITH HIM FROM GALILEE TO JERUSALEM, WHO ARE HIS WITNESSES TO THE PEOPLE. (32) AND WE DECLARE TO YOU GLAD TIDINGS—THAT PROMISE WHICH WAS MADE TO THE FATHERS.

A. Now Paul gets to the point.

1. He tells them here and previously in **verse 26** that the Lord sent Him and Barnabas specifically to them to tell them of salvation – the promise that was made to their forefathers.

VIII. **ACT 13:33-37 NKJV** GOD HAS FULFILLED THIS FOR US THEIR CHILDREN, IN THAT HE HAS RAISED UP JESUS. AS IT IS ALSO WRITTEN IN THE SECOND PSALM: 'YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.' (34) AND THAT HE RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, NO MORE TO RETURN TO CORRUPTION, HE HAS SPOKEN THUS: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE SURE MERCIES OF DAVID.' (35) THEREFORE HE ALSO SAYS IN ANOTHER **PSALM**: 'YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO SEE CORRUPTION.' (36) "FOR DAVID, AFTER HE HAD SERVED HIS OWN GENERATION BY THE WILL OF GOD, FELL ASLEEP, WAS BURIED WITH HIS FATHERS, AND SAW CORRUPTION; (37) BUT HE WHOM GOD RAISED UP SAW NO CORRUPTION.

A. Paul quotes **Psalms 2:7**, **Psalms 16:10** and **Isaiah 55:3** to remind them that the Lord had promised His Son, and that He would be holy, and that He would never see the corruption of an earthly death.

1. You see – most of the Jewish scholars at the time believed these scriptures were talking about David, but Paul reminds them that David died just like his predecessors and underwent the normal processes of death.
 - a) But Jesus – the Son of God that was raised on the 3rd day – **did not suffer the decay of death**. These scriptures were referring to Him!

IX. ACT 13:38-39 NKJV THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN TO YOU, BRETHREN, THAT THROUGH THIS MAN IS PREACHED TO YOU THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS; (39) AND BY HIM EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IS JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS FROM WHICH YOU COULD NOT BE JUSTIFIED BY THE LAW OF MOSES.

- A. Paul hits them again with something wonderful, but almost impossible for an orthodox Jew to believe.
 - 1. And that is that Jesus did what the Law of Moses could not do – He provided freedom from the consequences of sin!
 - a) It is almost as though Paul knows what is going on in their minds, as you will see in the next verses.

X. ACT 13:40-41 NKJV BEWARE THEREFORE, LEST WHAT HAS BEEN SPOKEN IN THE PROPHETS COME UPON YOU: (41) 'BEHOLD, YOU DESPISERS, MARVEL AND PERISH! FOR I WORK A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL BY NO MEANS BELIEVE, THOUGH ONE WERE TO DECLARE IT TO YOU.' "

- A. Well, as with anytime people hear the message of life and death – they have two choices: ignore it because of pride or repent and get right with the Lord. Paul got both reactions.

XI. ACT 13:42-44 NKJV SO WHEN THE JEWS WENT OUT OF THE SYNAGOGUE, THE GENTILES BEGGED THAT THESE WORDS MIGHT BE PREACHED TO THEM THE NEXT SABBATH. (43) NOW WHEN THE CONGREGATION HAD BROKEN UP, MANY OF THE JEWS AND DEVOUT PROSELYTES FOLLOWED PAUL AND BARNABAS, WHO, SPEAKING TO THEM, PERSUADED THEM TO CONTINUE IN THE GRACE OF GOD. (44) ON THE NEXT SABBATH ALMOST THE WHOLE CITY CAME TOGETHER TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. These - who heard were sincere. They wanted to know the truth, but we also see the other response.

XII. ACT 13:45-46 NKJV BUT WHEN THE JEWS SAW THE MULTITUDES, THEY WERE FILLED WITH ENVY; AND CONTRADICTING AND BLASPHEMING, THEY OPPOSED THE THINGS SPOKEN BY PAUL. (46) THEN PAUL AND BARNABAS GREW BOLD AND SAID, "IT WAS NECESSARY THAT THE WORD OF GOD SHOULD BE SPOKEN TO YOU FIRST; BUT SINCE YOU REJECT IT, AND JUDGE YOURSELVES UNWORTHY OF EVERLASTING LIFE, BEHOLD, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES.

- A. In other words, "If you don't want to hear it, we will take it to the Gentiles who do!"

XIII. CONCLUSION

- A. **Act 13:47-52 NKJV** For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I HAVE SET YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT YOU SHOULD BE FOR SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.' " (48) Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. (49) And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the

region. (50) But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. (51) But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. (52) And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

1. I want to close by pointing out 3 things:
 - a) When you preach the real Jesus – there will always be some who don't like it!
 - b) Don't spend too much time worrying about those who don't want to receive Jesus and move on to the ones who do!
 - c) And finally, being in and doing the will of the Lord will ALWAYS bring us joy!