

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 7TH, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

THE GOSPEL (ACTS 13:26-41)

JESUS IS THE POINT AND FULFILLMENT OF THE OT

As Jewish people and God-fearing Gentiles, their immersion in the OT scriptures should have prepared them for Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. But the only prophecy these people had fulfilled was the rejection of Jesus.

- **God has graciously given us amazing access to His Word so we can know Jesus and receive Him. Don't reject Him!**

"NO GROUNDS FOR THE DEATH SENTENCE..."

The Jewish leaders accused Jesus of blasphemy by making Himself God, which was punishable by death. The Jews could not put Jesus to death, so they asked Pilate to do so. After His death, they took Jesus from the cross and buried Him in a tomb.

- **The only truly innocent Person to ever live is Jesus. And they killed Him.**

BUT GOD...

Three days later, Jesus was raised from the dead—victorious over death, Hell, sin, and the devil. The Bible says all members of the Trinity raised Him (the Father here and in many other places, the Son in John 2 and 10, and the Holy Spirit in Romans 8:11). **Nothing could keep Jesus dead and in the grave!**

- **Without the resurrection, we have no hope.**

WITNESSES

The resurrection of Jesus was attested to by actual eyewitnesses who saw Him. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:6 that Jesus appeared to over 500 people (and at the time he wrote Corinthians, many were still alive) who continued to speak of what they had seen and heard, including Paul.

- This is God's plan: **people telling people what they have seen and heard about Jesus.**

SCRIPTURES FULFILLED

Paul quotes three Scriptures (Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 55:3; Psalm 16:10) to show how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about Him. These three show how Jesus is the better Davidic King. David worked for God, died, and decayed. Jesus worked for God, died, but did not decay. **He resurrected victoriously!**

- **Jesus is the better King! Follow Him!**

SO WHAT?

The Law of Moses could only expose sin and condemn sinners. It could not forgive sin and declare sinners righteous (justification). Because Jesus took the punishment sinners deserved through His death, God's wrath is satisfied, and Jesus's righteousness is credited to them.

- **Forgiveness and justification are the good news of the gospel.**

A WARNING

Paul warns the people not to scoff at the gospel, not to be hardhearted to the gospel, and not to think another way of salvation is available. The prophets taught that there would be those who would have the gospel explained to them but would reject it. **Do not be those people!**

- **Every day of life is an expression of God's loving patience towards unbelievers.**

CONFLICT (ACTS 13:42-47)

PLANTING, WATERING, GROWING

Paul had preached Jesus (planted) from the Scriptures (OT). Some wanted to hear more the next Sabbath (watering). Others trusted in Jesus and followed Paul and Barnabas (growing). Paul and Barnabas urged these converts to continue in God's grace.

- **God's grace is not just for our salvation but for all of our days with Jesus.**

CROWDS DO NOT EQUAL CONVERTS

For a week, there must have been a buzz about the upcoming Sabbath. When the day arrived, a large crowd gathered. Jealousy caused the Jews to insult the messenger rather than engage the message. The ones who knew the Bible the best should have rejoiced in the gospel but instead rejected it.

- **Eagerness does not produce endurance.**

TO THE JEW FIRST, BUT ALSO TO THE GREEK

For the sake of the OT promises to the Patriarchs, the gospel was heralded first to the Jews. At its rejection, Paul and Barnabas continue to fulfill the Scriptures (Isaiah 49:6, for one) by taking the gospel to the Gentiles.

- No one is worthy of receiving the gospel. Humbly admitting our need makes us "worthy." **"We share with all but focus on the receptive."**

MOVEMENT (ACTS 13:48-52)

GOOD NEWS TO THE FAR AWAY

In Ephesians 2, Paul talks about the dividing wall that existed between the Jews and the Gentiles. But he tells them that Jesus tore down the dividing wall, so there was now one man in Jesus. No longer were the Gentiles on the outside looking in. Jesus brought them in!

- **The gospel is the only hope for the marginalized and the outcast. Don't limit it!**

REJOICING

Unlike the Jews who rejected Jesus, the Gentiles rejoiced over Jesus and what He had done to grant them salvation. They honored the word (the gospel) by repenting of their sins and believing in the finished work of Jesus.

- **The greatest joy a Christian has is to be present when sinners repent and believe.**

Don't let angels out-party us (Luke 15:7, 10)!

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY AND MAN'S FREE WILL

Too much time and ink have been spilled over this issue. The Bible teaches both, just like here in v. 48. Did God appoint these Gentiles to eternal life? Yes! Did the Gentiles need to respond in belief? Yes! If God does not move, people will not be saved. If people will not believe, God will not save. **There is no conflict in God's mind, or His Word, so do not make one!**

JOY IN THE CONFLICT

The gospel spreads over the whole region. The Jews stir up God-fearing Gentile women and men to persecute Paul and Barnabas so that they are expelled from the region. They shake the dust off their feet and move on. The disciples experience joy as a fruit of the Holy Spirit.

- **Since joy is not based on circumstances, even opposition cannot quench it.**

THE GOSPEL REALIZED

- The gospel is good news about all Jesus has done for us: **share it—do not keep it!**
- Repentance and faith are the proper responses to the gospel: **receive it—do not reject it!**
- The resurrection is the hope of the gospel: **believe it—do not doubt it!**
- Jesus is the point of all things: **worship Him—do not dismiss Him!**

WE WILL ENCOUNTER ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE

- Just because people are eager does not mean they have truly trusted in Jesus. Like the parable of the soils, some will eagerly receive the gospel, but the worries of the world will cause them to fall away.
- The grace of God is needed for all of life.
- **Rejoice when we find people who are receptive and are truly believing in Jesus.**

JOYFUL HERALDING LEADS TO SALVATION

- God's sovereignty takes the pressure off our evangelism. Man's free will gives us an urgency in sharing. **Both undergird our evangelistic work.**
- Because God is in control and at work in all circumstances, joyful confidence should strengthen us even in a chaotic culture that rejects Jesus. **Not everyone will!**