

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 6TH–7TH, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

GOOD NEWS (ACTS 13:26–37) A SAVIOR FOR ANYONE WHO WANTS HIM

Paul tells these “brothers and sisters” that even after obvious OT prophecies and the teaching of John, the Jewish residents and leaders still did not accept Jesus.

- The crucifixion and resurrection were the crowning evidence because they fulfilled the scripture the rabbis read every Sabbath.

MISSING GOD RIGHT IN FRONT OF THEM

When we are self-serving, we become blind to the things of God and the needs of others. The Jews fulfilled the very prophecies they should have identified and “carried out all that was written about Him.”

- Religious practices can even blind us from Jesus if we do them for selfish gain.

GOD KNEW, AND STILL CAME

Jesus was unlawfully arrested, beaten, mocked, killed, and put in a tomb. But He conquered death and revealed Himself to His disciples so they could be “witnesses to the people.”

- Jesus knew what would happen, but He still came to serve, love, save, and restore ALL people who would let Him!

“THE GOOD NEWS OF THE PROMISE”

From Genesis 3 through the OT, God promised His people that a Savior would come. Paul was telling both Jews and Gentiles that “God has fulfilled this for us...by raising up Jesus.”

- The cross was substitutionary atonement: the punishment we should’ve received Jesus took and saved us from God’s wrath.

“YOU WILL NOT LET YOUR HOLY ONE SEE DECAY”

Paul quotes Psalm 16:10 to refer to the resurrection of Jesus and to show that through Him we have eternal life (salvation).

- Like David, we will die and decay, but we are also promised a resurrection like Jesus’, where we will have glorified bodies that will never be corrupted.

JUSTIFIED (ACTS 13:38–43) THE ONLY PATH TO SALVATION

Paul makes it very clear that “forgiveness of sins” only comes through faith in Jesus. Through faith, we are *justified* before God, something the law (our effort) could not do.

- Justified is a legal term that means we are able to stand before God as righteous. This is not by our work but by Jesus’.

FAITH YIELDS MANY BENEFITS

We are saved by God’s grace through true faith (Ephesians 2:8–10). True faith is belief put into motion. When we have true faith, we are saved, restored, and shown tremendous grace when we fall short.

- True faith also inspires us to be good witnesses of Christ in how we live.

REJECTING THIS FREE GIFT (V. 41)

Paul quotes Hab. 1:5 as a warning not to reject the truth and evidence of Jesus. God has no desire for us to experience punishment (2 Peter 3:9), but we have to choose Him.

- Salvation, grace, and restoration are free gifts from Jesus, but if we reject Jesus, we receive the punishment we deserve.

RECEPTIVE AND HUNGRY

The people in the synagogue were receptive and eager to hear more. So, they were invited to come back, and Paul “[urged] them to continue in the grace of God.”

- They heard the gospel and were receptive, but that was just the beginning! We must continue growing in Jesus (sanctification).

LISTENING? (ACTS 13:44–52)

“ALMOST THE WHOLE TOWN ASSEMBLED”

Pisidian Antioch was 70–100k people. “Whole town” is hyperbole for a large crowd, or maybe almost all people who observed Judaism.

- Many Jews were upset and jealous, possibly because so many Gentiles were crowding their synagogue, and they started to “contradict” and insult Paul.

SELFISHNESS ALWAYS GETS IN OUR WAY

Envy and selfishness in Pisidian led Paul to “boldly” reply, “Since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles.”

- Paul is referring to self-righteousness. In our arrogance to think we can determine morality, we reject the truth/Jesus.

AGAIN, GOD KNEW ALL THIS WOULD HAPPEN

Paul quotes Isaiah 49:6, which foreshadows that the work of the Savior would go far beyond just the Jewish people. Israel was to be a light and starting point for Gentiles, but because it failed, Jesus fulfilled that mission.

- This is not antisemitism but an example of how humanity always falls short.

“ALL WHO HAD BEEN APPOINTED TO ETERNAL LIFE”

The Gentiles “were honored” to hear the gospel, and those “appointed” were saved. This brings up the incomprehensible topic of **election**—God initiating grace and choosing *who to save*.

- The Bible teaches predestination AND free will. God chooses us, and we must choose to place our trust in Him.

THE GOSPEL DOES DISRUPT HOW WE LIVE

As the gospel spread “through the whole region... the Jews incited the prominent God-fearing women and the leading men of the city.”wThe women were likely wives of Jewish magistrates and law enforcement officials.

- They convinced the Roman authorities that Christianity would disrupt the *Pax Romana*.

SUCCESS LEADS TO OPPOSITION AND SEPARATION

Luke records that Paul and Barnabas “shook the dust off their feet” and went to another city.

- Jesus set the precedent of peacefully and prayerfully walking away from people who have no desire to hear the truth (Matthew 10:14).

- We must prioritize our time for people who genuinely are searching for truth.

BEING FULL OF THE SPIRIT AND IN HIS WILL

Paul and Barney worked hard, faced hardships, and were persecuted, but because they were in God’s will, they were content and fulfilled.

- The true Christian life is not easy, but it is good. God never promises ease, but He does promise salvation and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5).

WE LET OURSELVES GET IN OUR WAY

- Many people do not objectively seek truth because it may impede the way they want to live. But putting ourselves first is the fastest way to destroy ourselves.
- This is not just non-believers. It is often people who know who Jesus is but fail to truly seek and submit to Him.

TRUE FAITH AND AMAZING BENEFITS

- We often think of Christianity as restrictive, but true faith is actually the only mechanism by which we are saved and set free.
- If we take the time to read God’s Word, apply His teachings, pray, and trust in Him, we will see amazing transformation in our lives and be a blessing to others.

OPPOSITION AND SEPARATION

- As Christians, we are going to face opposition and rejection. It is not really us being rejected, but Christ/truth in us.
- We must seek God’s wisdom to know when to distance ourselves from certain situations or people. We must also be careful not to “toss [our] pearls before pigs” (Matthew 7:6).

BEING FULL OF THE SPIRIT AND IN HIS WILL

- A relationship with Jesus (prayer, study, obedience, church) gives us joy and peace that is absent from any other path.
- If we will humble ourselves and seek His Kingdom and will (Matthew 6:33), we will live in true contentment regardless of the circumstances around us.