

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 7TH, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

### THE RESURRECTED JESUS (ACTS 13:26–33)

#### THEY DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM

"The residents of Jerusalem and their rulers" were absolutely familiar with Jesus, but **they failed to recognize how the scriptures they read revealed who He really was.**

- We run the risk of treating Jesus wrongly when we do not truly know him. **Reading about Him is only an introduction that should lead to a relationship.**

#### "THEY TOOK HIM DOWN FROM A TREE"

Paul was using the Torah, which his audience was familiar with, to show how **a person who was hung on a tree was cursed by God** (Deuteronomy 21:22–23).

- Paul wanted to communicate to those in the synagogue that day (and later in a letter to Christians in that area) the idea that Jesus, who they had crucified, was **cursed so we could be blessed** (Galatians 3:13).

#### DEFEATING SIN AND DEATH

Verse 30 starts with **"but God"**—a great phrase that is at the heart of the gospel.

- It shows that in all of our rebellion and fighting against God, God is greater. Though the people treated Him with contempt and crucified Him, God raised Jesus from the dead, proving that **He is greater than our sin and rebellion.**

#### TESTED TRUTH IS A TRUSTED TRUTH

Paul essentially says, when it comes to the message he is proclaiming, that there is verifiable evidence that God resurrected Jesus from the dead. There were people still alive who were **witnesses to Jesus' resurrection** (1 Corinthians 15:6).

- Christianity is more than just theology or philosophy; it is **a belief based on facts concerning what God has done.**

#### JESUS' WITNESSES

Paul ended the gospel presentation by showing that those who knew Jesus—including the events surrounding His life, death, and resurrection—were now His witnesses to the people.

- The proper response to knowing Jesus and His sacrifice for all people is to **go and be His witness to all people.**

#### "FULFILLED THIS...BY RAISING UP JESUS"

Paul quotes Psalm 2:7, saying, "You are my Son; today I *have become* your Father," to show that through Jesus, the Son of God, comes the opportunity to approach God in a personal and intimate way as our Father.

- Though we are all created by God, it is only by Jesus that **we are adopted into the family of God as sons and daughters.**

#### BEWARE (ACTS 13:34–41)

##### "HE HAS SPOKEN THIS WAY"

Pertaining to the resurrection of Jesus, Paul quotes Isaiah 55:3 and Psalm 16:10 to show how **God made good on His promise** given hundreds of years earlier to their forefathers.

- The Messianic promises made to David simply did not apply to him since he died, was buried, and decayed. **These promises were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.**

##### "THAT THROUGH THIS MAN..."

In v. 38, Paul was bringing his sermon to a close—something Stephen didn't have the chance to do.

- Paul made sure his audience knew that forgiveness of sins was found in Jesus. The religious leaders strongly believed only God could forgive sins, and **Paul was making the same claim Jesus had made about His divinity, which they deemed as blasphemous** (Luke 5:21).

#### SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

The religious leaders felt justified (declared righteous) by their ability to adhere to the law.

- A few months after this point, Paul would write a letter to the churches in this area of Galatia, addressing, again, that **we are able to stand before God (justified) because of the completed work of the cross and not our own efforts. We are justified by God's grace** (Ephesians 2:8–9).

##### "SO BEWARE..."

With the invitation came a warning. Paul quoted Habakkuk 1:5 to show that the prophets not only spoke of the promised resurrection of the Messiah but also of scoffers perishing in unbelief.

- Placing our **faith in Jesus will bring forgiveness of sins and justification** before the Father, but **rejection of the Son of God brings punishment** (John 3:16–18).

#### THE RESPONSE (ACTS 13:42–52)

##### "CONTINUE IN THE GRACE OF GOD

One group of Paul and Barnabas's listeners desired to hear more and invited them back the next week to continue speaking. As they left the synagogue, Paul and Barnabas urged the people to continue in the grace of God.

- God's grace is something we receive and step out of as we continue our walk. **It is His grace that is the foundation of our walk.**

##### "THEY WERE FILLED WITH JEALOUSY"

Opposition grew from jealousy of the attention the missionaries were receiving. The rejecting Jews then hurled insults and blasphemed what Paul was saying.

- In response, Paul and Barnabas boldly replied that **the Word of God was spoken to them first, but since they rejected it, it would now be shared with Gentiles.**

##### THIS IS WHAT THE LORD HAS COMMANDED US"

Paul quotes Isaiah 49:6, which shows that Israel was God's servant to bring light to the Gentiles (49:3), but since they failed to do so, God would raise up His servant Jesus to carry out that mission.

- As Jesus' servants, **Paul and Barnabas picked up the mantle of Christ and carried the light to the ends of the earth.**

##### "THEY STIRRED UP PERSECUTION"

As the **"word of the Lord spread through the whole region,"** the Jews, similar to the Sanhedrin with the stoning of Stephen, **"incited the prominent God-fearing women and the leading men of the city."**

- It seems that the Jewish leaders convinced the Roman authorities that the **Pax Romana (peace of Rome) would be disrupted if they did not expel them from their district.**

##### FOCUSING ON THOSE WHO WERE RECEPTIVE

Paul was obedient to God's command to preach to the Jew first and then to the Gentiles (Romans 1:16). Paul displayed wisdom of the Holy Spirit in **not spending all of his time attempting to persuade those with hardened hearts.**

- He spent more time ministering to those with more receptive hearts, while still **praying for the salvation of those who rejected** (Romans 10:1).

##### "SHOOK THE DUST OFF THEIR FEET"

If a Jewish person entered or passed through a Gentile city, they would shake the dust off their feet so as not to take anything with them from a "God-rejecting" Gentile city.

- By shaking the dust off their feet, **Paul and Barnabas did not take anything with them into Iconium from the rejection of the people in Pisidian Antioch.**

##### NOT TAKING IT PERSONALLY

The rejection they encountered did not make them believe for one second that anything was wrong with themselves.

- We are responsible for putting in the effort, showing love, and spreading the gospel ("planting seeds and watering"), but **we cannot change a person's heart or transform a life—only God can do that** (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

##### NOT LOSING OUR RESOLVE

The disciples were not filled with doubt, despair, or discouragement because of the rejection and the persecution they faced in Pisidian Antioch.

- Paul and Barnabas showed great resolve and joy that contradicted their circumstances. They weren't defeated as they entered into Iconium; **they were determined and filled by the Holy Spirit.**

##### STUDYING THE GOSPEL

- Where is our knowledge of God leading us?
- Is it leading us to be puffed up with pride of how much we know, or is it leading us into a deeper relationship with Him?
- **"The purpose of theology is doxology"** (J.I. Packer), meaning that the study of God's character and grace should result in the praise and worship of God.
- Study of God (theology) that does not lead to praise and worship (doxology) is idolatry or vain knowledge.
- If our time in the Word is not yielding humility, love, and awe, then we have missed its ultimate purpose.
- Our goal is not only to know more about Jesus but to look more like Jesus.

##### SHARING THE GOSPEL

- We are to share the gospel, plant and water seeds, and trust God with the results.
- We cannot let opposition or rejection make us want to give up.
- We are to start with those closest to us. If they do not receive it or if they reject it, we don't give up on them nor do we stop telling others.