

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JUNE 7TH, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

SALVATION (ACTS 13:26-33) BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Paul continues his message to the synagogue, now addressing them with more intensity, as if speaking to his own family.

- He has moved from the general history lesson to the personal salvation message.
- As he continues to remind them of what they have been taught, he will begin to explain how Jesus is the Messiah.

THEY DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM

As Paul tells the story of what happened in Jerusalem, he prepares them for the warning against unbelief that will end his sermon about Jesus as the Messiah.

- Jerusalem made the mistake of misunderstanding the scripture that they read almost every day.
- Because they didn't recognize the prophecy, they didn't recognize the Savior.

NO GROUNDS FOR THE DEATH SENTENCE

Paul makes it clear that Jesus was innocent, but the crowd still demanded His crucifixion at the hands of Pilate.

- They were unaware that they were killing the very One who came to save them.
- **People still disrespect and reject Jesus. But He is their only hope for real forgiveness, peace, and eternal life.**

THEY CARRIED OUT ALL THAT WAS WRITTEN

In a simple sentence, Paul reveals that everything that happened to Jesus in Jerusalem was exactly how God had revealed in His Word centuries before.

- They took Him down from the cross and put Him in a tomb.
- This looked like the end of Jesus and His followers.

BUT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD

The action of the people of Jerusalem and their rulers was to murder Jesus. God's action was to resurrect Him in a way that many could see.

- The 11 apostles saw Him alive. Paul, along with other disciples, was now proclaiming the good news of His resurrection.

GOD HAS FULFILLED HIS PROMISE

As students of God's Word, they would have been amazed to find that God had fulfilled His promise of the Messiah.

- Even more amazing was that God had resurrected Jesus and revealed His place as God's Son—a place of authority, power, and equality with God.

UNBELIEVABLE (ACTS 13:34-41) "NEVER TO RETURN TO DECAY"

Jesus had raised the dead, and others even came back to life when Jesus was resurrected.

- But unlike David and every other person, Jesus' body would never see decay.
- God had made a promise that only Jesus' death and resurrection could fulfill.

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Paul makes it clear that forgiveness of sins is complete only through Jesus.

- Everyone who believes is justified, through Him, from everything the law could not clean because the law was only meant to expose sin.
- **Justified: Just as if we'd never sinned, then given the righteousness of Christ.**

BEWARE OF UNBELIEF

God had made a way for the religious people to find peace in their hearts through Jesus.

- But just like the people in Habakkuk, there would be some who would choose unbelief, even in clear view of God's promises fulfilled.
- **How much evidence will it take for us to live like we believe?**

RESPONSES (ACTS 13:42-52)

MORE TEACHING

After the warning, the people's response was to ask Paul and Barnabas to return the next week and teach more.

- We also find out that many followed them daily to hear what they had to say.
- Their teaching was summed up in the phrase "continue in the grace of God."
- **Grace over legalism is still a challenge for Believers today.**

FILLED WITH JEALOUSY

A bigger crowd than before gathered to hear the message the next Sabbath day.

- Almost the whole city was there.
- But the religious leaders were filled with jealousy, so they spoke against Jesus and the grace He offered new Believers.
- **Jealousy has no place in God's church. Beware of any tradition that seeks to compromise God's message of grace.**

THE BOLD REPLY

Paul and Barnabas boldly responded to the contradictions to the gospel.

- They once again made it clear that the message was for everyone—both Jews and Gentiles.
- It wasn't Paul who judged the unbelievers; they judged themselves and refused to believe what was right in front of them.

SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Paul quotes the OT and shares that God had always intended to bring salvation to the Gentiles.

- The Gentiles responded with joy and honored the word of the Lord.
- They became disciples who shared the word throughout the region.
- **Disciples make disciples who make disciples!**

THE SECOND RESPONSE OF THE OPPOSITION

Ultimately, persecution broke out.

- Unbelieving Jews enlisted the support of some unexpected people: Gentile women and leading men of the city.
- The persecution grew and Paul and Barnabas were expelled from the city.
- This will become another pattern in Paul's journeys.

REMEMBERING JESUS' INSTRUCTIONS

As they left the city, they "shook the dust off their feet" and went on to Iconium.

- It may seem like leaving was the same as quitting; it was not. They had completed their mission.
- What they left behind was another group of Believers who were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL

- The gospel is good news.
- **Everyone should love good news.**
- **It's only good news to those who want what is offered. If we are looking for forgiveness, peace, and the positive presence of God now and forever, then we should be willing to embrace and believe the gospel.**

THE DEAL

- Everyone likes a good deal.
- **God is not offering a deal.**
- **Salvation is not transactional because we can't afford it, earn it, or maintain it. The law was meant to reveal that truth and solidify our need for the Savior. God offers salvation to those who will receive it through repentance. Have we turned from our sin and to Christ?**

NEW LIFE

- Following Jesus gives us a new life.
- **It is a different life, and some will oppose it.**
- **One of the best things about following Jesus is that we get to share Him with others and serve in His name. We get His presence and His people to encourage and strengthen us as we live this new life. How is it going? Are we living in the new life He offers or trying to hold on to the old life? When will we stop trying to bargain with God? Are we willing to shake off the dust and live?**