
Sermon Summary

This is the first of Paul’s sermons that we have recorded in Acts. Along with Barnabas, he has arrived in Pisidian Antioch and entered the synagogue. This is a message aimed at people who know the stories of the Old Testament, and so we have a brilliant example of how Paul explained the gospel to who knew the scriptures.

Personal Application

Q Read v13-16. Who is Paul preaching to?

Q Read v17-22. What had God done for His people in history? How many times did He rescue them in the past?

Q Read v23-37. What evidence does Paul present to prove that Jesus is the final ultimate Saviour that God had sent?

Q Read v38-41 What does Paul say is necessary for Salvation? Why is it an urgent matter?

Q Read v42-52. Why do you think the message Paul preached offended the Jews but not the Gentiles?

Q What do you think Paul means when has says of the Jews, “you do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life”? Why do the Jews reject the gospel? Do you think this still happens today?
Passage: Acts 14

Chapter 14 completes Paul's first missionary journey with stops at Iconium, Lystra and Derbe (and Perga) before returning to their sending church in Antioch. This chapter gives us a good flavour of how the preaching of the gospel was received by both Jews and Gentiles as well as the personal cost to those who engage in the ministry of evangelism. As Paul says in v22, “we must go through many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God”.

Personal Application

Q Read v1-7. Where does opposition to the gospel arise from in Iconium? What (according to v3) is the content of the message that Paul and Barnabas are preaching? What does that mean?

Q Read v8-19. What happens in Lystra?

Q How do they explain the gospel in v15-17? How is this helpful to us today?

Q Read v21-28. In light of the recent past, what is so remarkable and powerful about v21-22?

Q This first mission trip resulted in the conversion of large numbers of disciples (v21) and the establishment of a number of churches. How much of this was simply down to the gifts of Paul and Barnabas (see v27)?

Q Compare this with what Luke says in 13:48. How do you think these truths sustained the Apostles through all the hardships they suffered? How is this a great encouragement to us?
Date: 7th November 2021  Passage: Acts 15:1-35  Preacher: Andy Bruins

Sermon Summary

Chapter 15 Deals with the first major controversy in the missionary endeavours of the church. The issue is over whether Gentile converts need to start keeping certain aspects of the Law of Moses. This is a huge issue because it has a profound impact on what the Gospel message actually is; Are we saved by Faith in Christ alone, or is more required?

Personal Application

Q Read v1-5. What’s the issue in the church in Antioch? Who are the group causing the problem and what do they want?

Q Why is this issue so important?

Q Read v6-21. How would you sum up the contributions from each of those who give evidence:

Peter (v7-11):

Paul and Barnabas (v12):

James (v13-18):

Q Read v22-35. What does this council in Jerusalem decide to do? On what authority do they make this decision? (note v28). Are these requirements something we should follow today? Why / why not?

Q Can you think of any modern day examples of things that we might decide to “abstain from” for the sake of the gospel?