

Acts 13:14-52 The Gospel of Grace!

Intro: Do you know that our God is always on the Move? – He is always at work. He is an agent of Change.

A) What I mean by that is He is always stirring the pot – always seeking to break us out of our Comfort Zones.

B) Always eager to lead us into New experiences of having to lean upon his grace – and trust Him completely.

1) We have seen that over and over again in the book of Acts – CHAPTER 13 IS NO EXCEPTION.

C) We noted in our last study in the book of Acts that Ch.13 marks a major Shift in the Story

In Chapter 13 the focus of the Story shifts from the Church in Jerusalem to the Church in Antioch.

A) You recall the Church in Antioch was started in Ch.11 – when some random believers went there with the gospel. – Many were saved.

B) A Church was born – the Apostles in Jerusalem sent Barnabas the Son of encouragement there to Disciple and build up -

b) Continued to grow – Barnabas went and found Paul – together they ministered there as pastors and teachers for several yrs.

C) Acts 13 marks a shift in the book of Acts – from Peter to Paul.

D) This is the account of the first organized missions movement of the early Church.

1) We have Seen the Church Scattered – now we are going to see them SENT!

The Chapter begins with the Elders in the Church in Antioch meeting for a time of prayer and fasting and ministering to the Lord.

A) During that time Paul and Barnabas are singled out by the Holy Spirit!

2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

B) This was probably some word of Knowledge or Prophecy of some sort

1) Paul and Barnabas were being Called to the Holy Spirit – for a new work. No longer Pastor and teacher – but now Missionaries.

C) They were Prayed over and sent out
Acts 13:4-5

“So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant.”

There are four important things to note here:

#1 They were sent out by the Holy Spirit – this wasn't their own plan – they were being led by God's spirit – born out of the time of praying and Fasting.

#2 They went!

A) Here is an important truth for you who are trying to discern God's will for your life. Look carefully.

B) The text says, “**they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, they went**”

1) The Holy Spirit called them out, but *they* had to respond.

C) The Holy Spirit gave direction, but it was up to *them* to begin the journey.

D) There comes a point when the Lord, having made His will for you clear to you, expects you to depart—to take the first step on whatever path He has directed you to walk.

#3 They took John Mark with them.

John Mark, first mentioned in verse 25 of chapter 12, was the nephew of Barnabas. According to 1 Peter 5:13, it seems he was converted by Peter and later discipled under the tutelage of his uncle Barnabas.

#4 The focus now shifts to Paul. Acts 13:13

**13 Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos,
Catch that Paul and his Party.**

It was Barnabas who had set out as the leader of this expedition.

A) But now it is Paul and Barnabas. Paul has assumed the leadership of the expedition.

B) NOTE: The beautiful thing about Barnabas is that there is not one word of complaint from him.

1) He was a man prepared to take the second place so long as God's work was done.

APPLICATION: The MODEL of the Book of Acts tells us that success in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is built upon the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:3-8 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

APPLICATION: The MODEL of the Book of Acts tells us that success in the Kingdom of God is built **upon seeking first the kingdom of God**, not the seeking of your own kingdom.

Jeremiah 45:5 "And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them
Barnabas didn't have to be the man.

A) He didn't care what He was doing for God as long as He was doing something.

B) He recognized the calling on Paul and was willing to allow Paul to lead.

Note V.13 says they came to Perga – that is when John Mark left them.

A) File that in the back of your minds – significant later on – John Mark couldn't cut it –

B) Ministry wasn't what he thought it was going to be.

Pick up the Story in V.14 Acts 13:14-15 14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. 15 And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on."

Now this is another city named Antioch, but this city is in a whole different region.

A) Antioch Pisidia stood on a plateau 3,600 feet above sea-level in the Region of Galatia.

To get to this city Paul and Barnabas would travel 100 miles north on one of the hardest roads in Asia Minor, a road which was also notorious for robbers and thugs.

And they would have cross the Taurus range of mountains one by one.

{ Tough trip

B) As you follow Paul's journeys in Acts, you will notice that he selected

strategic cities, and planted churches in them, and went on from the churches to evangelize the surrounding areas.

C)He would also start by going to the synagogue to evangelize the Jews –
1)He loved his country men – REJECTED – Gentiles

So they entered the synagogue in Antioch Pisidia –when the ruler of the Synagogue notices them – Perhaps noticing Paul – famed Rabbi

A) “Folks we have a celebrity in our midst – former – top student of Gamaliel – Saul of Tarsus.

B)Only a visiting rabbi would be allowed to speak in the synagogue.

C)What an open door! – WOW!

D)It is here that we are going to see Paul preach his first sermon. – what **He preaches here is very significant.**

Dd)It is a very accurate description of the gospel. – **Great emphasis on the grace of God.**

E)Significant because later when Paul is writing to the Churches in this area in the book of Galatians – He writes to combat legalism.

D)False teachers crept into the Churches with a message that basically said – believing in Jesus is great – but it is not enough.

1)You must also become Jewish – you need to add to your faith – **circumcision** & other good works in order to be saved.

Paul asked those believers this question: “Can that which has begun in the Spirit be perfected by the flesh?” Galatians 3:3

It was there that Paul also gave this warning: Galatians 1:8-9

“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than

what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”

B)If any body preaches a different gospel – even an Angel – great verse to share with Mormon friends – book of Mormon – Angel Moroni – Accursed

1)Literally let them be damned

C)Any gospel different from what we preached. – What did Paul preach?

1)We have an account of the gospel he preached in Galatia before us in our text today.

Lets read his sermon Rd v.16-40

In V. 16-20 Paul does a quick rehearsal of Jewish history.

A)How everything that God did in establishing the nation of Israel – was leading up to this:

B)That He would send a Savior – who would come from the line of David.

1)V.26 He refers to this as the Word of Salvation.

C)Theological term – Soteriology- The Doctrine of Salvation.

The Basic message is this – God sent His Son – Jesus into the World – be the Promised seed – Messiah.

A)The Leaders of Israel did not recognize Him – He wasn't what they expected – so they killed Him.

B)Had Him Crucified – unbeknownst to them – fulfilling the OT Scriptures – Messiah Crucified.

1)Become a Curse – take on the sin of Humanity.

C)But after THREE DAYS –God raised him up again.

1)Fulfilling the Promise made to fathers.

D)He quotes in v.33 from Psalm 2:7

'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'

Now take note of this and the context – find

Psalm 2:7 – CF Acts 13:32-38

See The cults use this phrase, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' to say,

A)“Jesus was the first created Being. He’s important, He’s wonderful,” a Jehovah’s witness or a Mormon will say, “but He’s not God.

B)He was created.” He was begotten- Wait a minute. They’re missing the point. **Today I have begotten You.** What day is God referring to?

C)The day of His Resurrection. The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible – Paul gives us the context.

D) Psalm 2, as quoted here by Paul, is not talking about the Incarnation, but about the Resurrection.

1)Jesus is unique among all men by virtue of the fact that He rose again from the dead.

E)It’s not the womb David is speaking of—it’s the tomb.

This is a key understanding when you talk with people who try to sell you Watchtower Magazine, or the Mormon rap. { Jesus was created – not God.

A)Look at the context. Paul is talking about Jesus being raised from the dead.

B)The following verses make this crystal clear:

34 And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus:

'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'

35 Therefore He also says in another Psalm:

'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'

36 "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; 37 but He whom God raised up saw no corruption.

A) Jesus rose from the dead

B) Notice what Paul says in v.31

V.30 But God raised Him from the dead. 31 He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people.

C) Paul said, "Don't take my word for it. A whole bunch of guys saw Him."

1) Later on in 1 Corinthians, he'll say "Five hundred men saw Him, talked to Him, and give witness that He rose from the dead." 1 Corinthians 15:6

D) Five hundred witnesses is a formidable group.

1) Eyewitness accounts are essential to proving a case in a court of Law.

E) Four or five who say he did it I saw him – this is what he was wearing – all the stories collaborate –

1) Overwhelming evidence – 500 witnesses.

F) It is interesting to note that the enemies of the Rez give all sorts of theories – Mass Herculinations

1) Never say: There were no Eyewitnesses

If I weren't a believer simply because of what Jesus has done for me personally, I would be a believer because of the overwhelming proof intellectually.

A) Anyone who looks at the evidence historically must factor in the

eyewitnesses—

B)men & women who chose to die brutal and violent deaths rather than deny they had seen the resurrected Christ.

C)Here today and not a believer – You must answer for the fact there is an empty tomb!

1)What do you say: Historical fact – Jesus lived – died – empty tomb – 500 says saw Him risen.

That is the Doctrine of salvation- and the central focus of that Doctrine is found for us in V.38

“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;”

A)Through this man – The Central message of the gospel is about this Man!

B)That through this man is forgiveness of sins!

C)Jesus came to forgive sins,

1) Man’s greatest need is God’s greatest deed.

D)The greatest need for your sixteen-year-old son at home, or your husband sitting beside you, the greatest need for *every* person is the same: **forgiveness.**

And we have the privilege of telling people, even as Paul told his audience,

“Through this Man is the forgiveness of sin.”

A)The message is not about Political correctness –

B)The message is not about moral purity – Christianize our society

1)The message is not about social action

C)Listen there is a place for social action – there is a place for being *salt and light* in a community – 1)feeding the poor – helping the hurting –

being a positive influence in a community – cleaning up graffiti

I applaud the efforts of the Luis Palau *season of service* we have been involved in.

A) But if that is all that we do – if that is all that we are known for – those nice pp who helped clean up the city – or fed the poor – we are missing it.

B) I love what we do at camp Pendleton – Feeding marines – that are coming home or being deployed –

1) Doing Spa treatments to the wives to say – we appreciate you.

C) All of that is great – but the main goal of that is to give us the opportunity that we had a few weeks ago – to bring the gospel. – **Tell them Jesus loves ...**

1) To preach that forgiveness of sins is available because Jesus died and rose again.

Listen Church – It doesn't matter one bit – that those marines know that CCV loves them –

A) What matters is that they know that Jesus loves them – that He died for them – We didn't die for them – Jesus did.

B) We are into anything that gives us the opportunity to bring that message.

1) Some of those boys will get deployed and not come home.

C) They need to know what Jesus did for them – that is our goal! That is what we are about.

The Central message of the gospel is forgiveness of sins and V.39 by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

A) Everyone who believes – not Some - everyone

Aa) **Justified: Just as if you never sinned! – Forgiven and forgotten – done away with – clean slate – Eraser board – Calculator**

B)And note this V.39 – Justified from ALL THINGS – all folks

1)Not some things – I will forgive you of everything but this – ALL THINGS

C))That is why Jeffery Dalmer will be in heaven – Sick as his sin was!

This is Paul's major point Belief in Jesus does what the Law of Moses couldn't do – what no earthy law or religion could do.

A)Justified – Tell that to the Judiazers who brought their false doctrine to Galatia

B)Keeping rules doesn't justify Circumcision– Rules just reveals how messed up you are because – the rules get broken

C)But the central message of the gospel is that Jesus came & shed his blood – his blood applied to your sin – CLEANSED – WASHED CLEAN.

CHRISTIANITY IS A BLOODY RELIGION –

CENTRAL CHARACTER OF HEAVEN IS A LAMB SLAIN!

A)John behold the lion of the tribe of Judah – turned and saw a lamb as though it had been slain.

B)Jesus still bears the scars and will until the new heaven and new earth.

C)Heaven is filled with all this beauty and colors – Beings Cherebuim having all their heads

1)Paul said – words could not describe -

D)And yet the Central Character of Heaven is the lamb –it is Jesus bearing the marks of the scars having been slain for our sins.

Heavenly host bow down - enthralled – here is why

A)When we see Him in that setting – suddenly the magnitude of His sacrifice is going to make sense to us.

B)When we get to heaven and see Him that is the thing that is going to overwhelm us and Enthrall us – Excite us –

1)I could keep going with every positive adjective there is –

C)The thing that is going to put us in Censory overload where we are just undone with Joy and amazement is seeing the absolute glory and majesty and perfection of the lamb that was slain –

D)That is when we are going to understand like never before what He went through to save us.

When we see Jesus in the perfection of heaven – we are going to understand what He left to save us

A)the glory He set aside to become human

B)When we see Heaven in all of its glory and perfection – all of the majesty of heaven –

1)and realize that the **only thing marred in heaven – is Him**

2)Still bearing the scars – that speak of the sacrifice of love for us

C)Our hearts are going to melt – TEARS – Wiped away –

1)Tears of gratitude – tears of joy – tears of love – tears maybe of regret that we didn't do more Him

D)He is going to wipe them away!

Led Paul to say that In the ages to come we will still be learning of his mercy. Ephesians 2:7

Folks that is going to be heaven

A)When we understand and capture in a little more tangible way the essence of that Sacrifice - - that LOVE

B)The reality of who He is – what He left and that He did it all out of love for us. – to have relationship with us

C)And the extent to which we understand and walk in that reality is the extent to which we discover a little bit of heaven on earth

1)We discover what it means to be a part of His Kingdom –

D)Gospel of Grace is all about what Jesus did to give us what we did not deserve.

V.40-41 Paul ended his message with this warning:

40 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:

**41 'Behold, you despisers,
Marvel and perish!**

**For I work a work in your days,
A work which you will by no means believe,
Though one were to declare it to you.'"**

Paul quotes from Habakkuk 1 in verse 41, says the work of salvation is so wonderful that there will be those who will not believe it.

A)They'll just say, "It's too good to be true."

B)The fact is, it's so good it has to be true! Only an omnipotent God *could* provide total justification and complete forgiveness of sin.

1) Only a loving God *would*.

C)Those who will say – It can't be that easy – I need to do something – add something – BEWARE

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that

heard him;

OBSERVATION: God WARNS us because He LOVES us and does NOT want us to perish.

Rd v.42-52

Listen when you share the gospel with family and friends know this some will receive it gladly – others madly – it is has always been that way.

A)Some overjoyed and get saved –

B)Others reject and get mad – narrow minded – pushy etc

In the remaining verses we see the Balance that the Bible gives between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility.

A)There were those who heard the message and rejected it – Paul says – marked themselves unworthy of Salvation

B)There were others who Heard it gladly – believed – Marking themselves as those appointed unto Salvation

C)How do I know if I am appointed – Believe!

Those who go to Hell – go there of their own free Choice.

A)Those who opposed ended up stirring up the crowd against Paul and Barnabas

B)Just think what the Lord could have done there if they were willing!

C)Are you willing? Forgive / Justified today

1)Surrendered

