

Preaching Jesus, Planting Churches - Acts 14:19-28
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Acts is an amazing story, filled with the stories of amazing people accomplishing amazing things for the cause of Christ. The first half of the book took us to Jerusalem and showed us the explosive growth of the Jewish church in this ancient city. The movement began with 120 people praying and waiting. But they were filled with the Holy Spirit and the blaze of revival began. In a few short months there were thousands, maybe tens of thousands of believers in Jerusalem. The primary human character has been the Apostle Peter who preaches multiple key sermons in the city and region and who also encounters persecution. Yet, God's purpose is the Gospel to the nations, and it took an outbreak of persecution to propel the Jerusalem church out into the world. And even then, many found it difficult to take Jesus to Gentiles and join churches with these people. On the other hand, the Gospel took root in Antioch of Syria, a significant Roman city about 300 miles north of Jerusalem. This group was comprised of both Jews and Gentiles, and they had a missionary heart. So they sent and funded Paul and Barnabas on a missionary journey to the regions of Galatia, Pisidia, and Pamphylia in modern day Turkey where these men and others with them preached Christ and planted churches. In the second half of Acts, beginning with chapter 13, the focus of the book shifts to the story of the Gospel to the nations with the primary human character being the Apostle Paul, AKA Saul of Tarsus. Our story this week gives us a glimpse into the missionary methods of Paul, and gives us a chance to pause and look at his whole life. This week we are sharing a biographical sketch of the Apostle Paul. So thought I'd lay out the main points here so you can follow along if you like.

1. Paul was a Jew from the Roman city of Tarsus in modern day Turkey. He was a Roman Citizen but also a zealous Jew. His birth name was Saul.
2. He was a Pharisee trained by Gamaliel (Acts 22:3). Paul was highly intelligent and educated in both Jewish and Greek thought. His awareness of both cultures uniquely prepared Him for God's mission.
3. Paul spent his early life seeking to defend Judaism from Christianity, going as far as persecuting Christians and having them imprisoned and even killed.
4. Paul's life was absolutely turned upside down at his conversion on the Road to Damascus, where he was traveling to arrest Jewish Christians. He sees a light, hears Jesus speak, and is blinded. His sight is restored by a man named Ananias, who also baptizes Paul.
5. Paul spends the next thirteen years of his life in Damascus, Jerusalem, and Tarsus, and Antioch where he preaches, studies, and grows in his faith.
6. From approximately 45-58 AD, Paul embarks on three major "missionary journeys" that take him all over the known world to preach the Gospel and plant new churches.
7. In each city, Paul begins by preaching in the Synagogue, often finding some of the "scattered", and then preaches in the secular marketplace of the town.
8. All along the way, Paul encounters hardships, persecutions, and even attempted murders. He is shipwrecked multiple times, and left for dead more than once, all for the name of Christ. His key instigators are Jews who oppose his message of grace.
9. At the end of each journey, Paul returns to many of the cities, helping to establish the churches, and appointing Elders, the key leaders in the church.

10. During his journeys, Paul writes several letters to churches and individuals. Thirteen of these letters make up a large part of the New Testament.

11. Paul makes a trip to Jerusalem in AD 58 where he is arrested, primarily to protect him from the Jewish crowd. Paul appeals to Caesar, meaning that as a Roman Citizen, he is appealing to the highest court. He is sent to Rome, and imprisoned in "house arrest" for two years. Several of his letters come at this time. The book of Acts ends during this imprisonment.

12. Paul is released and for two or three years continues his journeys, which may included places like Spain and Crete.

13. In AD 68 Paul is imprisoned and beheaded by Nero in Rome

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Hebrews 1	Hebrews 2	Hebrews 3	Hebrews 4	Hebrews 5	Hebrews 6	Hebrews 7

Reading from this past week: Acts 14:19-28

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Acts 15:1-35

Family Worship

Song - *Blessed Be Your Name*

<https://youtu.be/Rw4H5t3TwHM>

Gospel Project

Unit: King Solomon

Story: Solomon's sin divided the kingdom

Big Picture Question: What is mercy?

Answer: Mercy is when God does not give us the punishment that we deserve.

Scripture: 1 Kings 10-12

New City Catechism

Question #34: Since we are redeemed by grace alone, through Christ alone, must we still do good works and obey God's Word?

Answer: Yes, so that our lives may show love and gratitude to God; and so that by our godly behavior others may be won to Christ.

Verse: 1 Peter 2:9-12

Scripture

Acts 14:19-28

- What are some things you notice about Paul's ministry and missionary methods as you read this text?
- Why would people get so upset at Paul that they were willing to stone him? Why do people in our world get so angry about the message of the Gospel?
- In each town visited by Paul, he leaves with a new church in that city. What is the role of the disciples who make up the church in their own town?

Prayer

*Pray that our church would continue the missionary methods of the Apostle Paul, faithfully preaching Jesus and planting new churches.

*Pray for the Arbors of Rockwood neighborhood

*Pray for all of the students returning to our area schools and for those off to college.