

Look What God Has Done

Acts 13:13-33 ¹³ Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, ¹⁴ but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.” ¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said: “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. ¹⁷ **The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.** ¹⁸ And for about forty years **he put up with them in the wilderness.** ¹⁹ And **after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance.** ²⁰ All this took about 450 years. And after that **he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.** ²¹ Then they asked for a king, **and God gave them Saul the son of Kish,** a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when **he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king,** of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ ²³ Of this

man’s offspring **God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.** ²⁴ Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’

²⁶ “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, **to us has been sent the message of this salvation.** ²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. ²⁸ And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ **But God raised him from the dead,** ³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. ³² And **we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers,** ³³ **this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus,**

❖ Recap – from Antioch

- 1) Sought the Lord 2) Obeyed the Lord 3) Faced Opposition 4) Prevailed

❖ Intro

- **This is God’s Story...**
 - This is not Paul’s Story...
 - God has brought about great things...
 - We will see them today...

❖ Background

- **From this point forward we see Saul called Paul for the rest of the Book**
 - Except when he recalls what Jesus said to him
 - When He said Saul, Saul
- **First part of this passage deals with where they went**
 - In the first 12 verses we see them go to the island of Cyprus, which is where barnabas is from
 - **Now they head to the area of Galatia...**
 - There were a lot of cities and territories in this area
 - And they made up the area of the Galatians...
 - This is where Paul directed his letter to the Galatians...

- It wasn't just one church, but a lot of churches scattered in this area...
- **So this part of the missionary journey finds them in Antioch of Pisidia**
 - This is a different Antioch than where they came from previously
 - Where the believers were called Christians...
 - That Antioch was in today's Syria (I misspoke last week saying it was in modern day turkey)
 - This Antioch of Pisidia is in modern day Turkey
- **This is also the time where John Mark left them and did not continue**
 - If you remember, he was assisting them when they were in Cyprus
 - I want you to see, we do not have any clue as to why he left
 - There is nothing but speculation
 - And I do not want to spoil the name of Mark by mere speculation
- **Even Christian Leaders Disagree or mess up**
 - It was a very sharp disagreement here...
 - Paul was so frustrated by what Mark did, that he did not want him to come with him later
 - **He did not want Mark going with him because he had**
 - "withdrawn and did not go with them to the work?"
 - He and barnabas eventually have a very sharp disagreement b/w them
 - Barnabas takes Mark and Paul then takes Silas...
- **A Very Dangerous Mission**
 - I want you to understand something here...
 - This was a very dangerous mission...
 - This was not hoping on a plane then getting in a boat down a river,
 - then riding in a vehicle to your spot
 - **These were Men... Real Men... Unafraid of the challenges that lay ahead.**
 - From my understanding, this path is still not passable even today from where they came
 - They had to navigate through mountains with steep cliffs and narrow passes
 - Besides the dangers from wild beasts and barbarians...
 - **We Complain So Much:**
 - We have no respect for the hard work people have put in before us...
 - To make sure we heard the gospel...
 - We complain: When we have to travel to far, or wake up too early
 - Or our week has been too difficult... Whatever it may be... We are Lazy Americans so often
- **After Arriving, they Went to the Synagogue...**
 - **From what I have read, Paul would seek out this Jewish Audience**
 - Since he had common ground with them as a Jew...
 - And it was customary for a guest who had a good background as a Jew
 - To be asked to share a few words...
 - **This is the situation Paul and Barnabas find themselves in...**
 - So Paul gets up to preach...
 - And here we see the first recorded sermon for Paul...
 - We have read Peter's so far and Stephen's, but here is Paul...

❖ **Notice the Sermon:**

- Look what God has done!
- Before I share my outline... Notice... Everything was done to Bring a Savior into the World

➤ **Outline:**

- **1) God Prepared to Send Salvation**
- **2) God's Message of Salvation**

- **The Significance is Great! Our Need for Salvation is Great**
 - **Man Rebelled against their God and King...**
 - It was not that God was unfair and the people went astray
 - God was good to man in the garden
 - God is good to us even today
 - **Providing the needs of man all over the globe**
 - ◆ We have run from Him
 - **Even in Our running and rebellion... God is seeking us...**
 - Look at what He did, and what He put up with...

❖ 1) God Prepared to Send Salvation

- **1) God Chose A People to Bring Salvation Through**
 - **¹⁷The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt,**
 - **God did the choosing**
 - ◆ **This started out with a young man named Abram...**
 - Living in a city named Ur... Ur was a city of the Chaldeans... Babylon... or Iraq today
 - Abram was born about 300 ish years after the flood...
 - Meaning Noah was still alive... I thought that was neat...
 - ◆ **God called Abram... to go into another land...**
 - He promised Abraham that his descendants would be like the stars of heaven...
 - Abram simply believed God...
 - Scriptures say that this belief was counted toward Abram as righteousness
 - **God made the people great**
 - ◆ **God eventually made the people great in the land of Egypt...**
 - So big that the king of Egypt tried to kill the make children to slow them down...
 - If you want to know how they got so big, read the book of Genesis and Exodus...
 - ◆ **Against all human odds... God made the people a great people...**
 - They were enslaved, had nothing of their own...
 - Some were killed just to keep the numbers down... yet they grew
 - **God is putting his plan in motion....**
 - ◆ He has a reason for calling who He calls... and when He calls them and where He calls them
- **2) God Did Mighty Things for this People**
 - **and with uplifted arm he led them out of it.**
 - **God showed his power (Not only did He choose a people to bring a savior into the world)**
 - ◆ Uplifted Arm... means... a very powerful Arm...
 - In this case, a power that no power on the earth could touch...
 - ◆ Even the greatest king of the day... the Pharoah of Egypt was nothing for God...
 - God even raised him up and gave him power, so God could display his glory
 - **Exodus 9:16 ¹⁶ But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth.**
- **3) God Was Patient and Merciful with the People**
 - **¹⁸And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness.**
 - **God put up with a hard headed people**
 - They were stubborn... they were fearful... they would not listen...
 - They lacked the courage, even though God had shown them what He would do
 - **God Put up with them...**

- Or God bore them, or endured them...
- A better meaning would probably put up with them with patience...
- **Scriptures say...**
 - Deuteronomy 1:31 ³⁰ The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes, ³¹ and in the wilderness. There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place."
 - God carried them like a father would carry his child...
- **4) God Removed Opposition and Provided for the People**
 - ¹⁹ And **after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance.**
 - **God paved the way being mighty in battle**
 - Battle after battle was won... sometime without the people doing anything...
 - **God was gracious in His gifts**
 - Even though they lacked much faith... God still gave them an entire nation as an inheritance...
 - **Consider this:**
 - ◆ Have you ever hear of a group of people from somewhere else...
 - ◆ Given an entire land to occupy as their own...
 - ◆ They grew up in Egypt and God moves the whole nation over to give them a land to the east
 - **I have heard of nations conquering other nations and taking parts over...**
 - ◆ Or having the people assimilate...
 - ◆ Here God displaced most of the people of a land and gave it to another people
 - **You may consider America to be like this, but we are not...**
 - ◆ America is just a bunch of people from all over the world becoming one nation
 - **God Set this Nation in its place**
 - Daniel 2:21 ²¹ He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings;
- **5) God Gave the People Leaders**
 - ²⁰ All this took about 450 years. And after that **he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.**
 - **God made sure the people had judges and prophets to lead them**
 - This is so important... God did not leave them to their own demise
 - He made sure He continued to give them direction
 - After their rebellious ways, He could have shut up His word to them...
 - But He was faithful to be there for them...
 - **Roller Coaster Ride**
 - ◆ They would sin, He would discipline them,
 - ◆ They would cry out to God, God would raise up a deliverer to save them...
 - ◆ Over and over...
- **6) God Gave the People an Earthly King**
 - ²¹ Then they asked for a king, **and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'**
 - **God gave the people what they wanted but did not need**
 - Be careful what you ask for
 - I think people have proven of the years... We were not meant to be ruled by each other
 - Men are not mean to rule men...
 - We were meant to rule and subdue the earth and its creatures...

- **They Asked for a King...**
 - And God gave them Saul...
 - The people had rejected God as their king... and He says as much to Samuel
 - ◆ 1 Samuel 8:7 ⁷And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.
- **God is the King of Men**
 - Eventually a good king comes to the throne...
 - And David ruled well for the most part as God would rule...
 - ◆ For the most part... yet he had his misgivings...

➤ 7) God Sends the People a Savior

- ²³Of this man’s offspring **God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.**
- **The Savior Messiah Arrives**
 - God made promises to send the Messiah... the Redeemer of the World
 - ◆ Through the blood line of the King David...
- **So, we see that both Joseph and Mary had descended from the line of David...**
 - As God promised... He sent Jesus through the line of David

➤ 8) God Sent a Messenger

- ²⁴Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’
- **God Sent John to tell the people the Messiah was here**
 - To make sure the people did not miss it...
 - He had a guy who could not be missed go and tell everyone...
 - He told them to repent... told them Messiah was coming...

➤ What Can We Learn about God here?

- God is a hands on God... watching over every event of human history
- God was strategically involved in making sure a Savior came to atone for our sins

❖ At this Point Paul Transitions his sermon...

- He goes from telling them what they already knew... (except the Jesus part)
 - To telling them new news...
 - Good news about Jesus... He is going to share with them the Rest of the Story...
 - The fulfillment of all they have been waiting for

❖ 2) God’s Message of Salvation

➤ 1) God sends the message

- ²⁶“Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, **to us has been sent the message of this salvation.**
- **What a Beautiful and Amazing Message...**
 - This is not your regular run of the mill story to go around and tell
- **There is Power in this message... it is a message of Salvation...**
 - Salvation for all people...
 - God is sending Paul with a message to tell every human being from every tribe on earth
 - That He has provided a way for them to come to Him...
- **This is why Paul was able to write about not being ashamed of this message**
 - Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to all who believe, to the Jew first and to the Gentile...

- **Paul says... He listen up all you who fear God...**
 - Not all you who are saved... but all you who fear God... I have a message for you...
- **We still have this message today...**
 - There are still people here in our place that have not heard it clearly...
- **What a privilege it would be for you to take it to someone...**
 - We are blessed with a message of salvation for this who would believe
- **Paul continues his sermon by reminding them...**

➤ 2) God's Promises Were Fulfilled

- **²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. ²⁸ And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb.**
- **Paul is showing them... this message I am giving you is not just out of no where...**
 - God has been telling you for thousands of years he would do this...
 - As a matter of fact... you can find **353 prophecies** in the O.T. about Jesus coming...
 - ◆ From where He would be born, where He would travel to, and where he would live
 - ◆ All the way to how He would die and then come back to life...
- **Paul says... God has fulfilled every promise...**
 - Not only that, but He used the leaders of Israel to do it...
 - Through their lack of understanding the O.T. they were part of the fulfillment...
 - **Illustration:**
 - ◆ You know that picture of the Ugly Woman and the Pretty Woman on the same page
 - Some people see one thing, and others see another...
- **So, Paul gives them the message about Jesus, but also gives them proof...**
 - **God has never asked man to believe Him blindly...**
 - ◆ Faith is not ignorance... it is not checking your brains at the door...
 - ◆ God provides ample evidence for people to know He is real...
 - **Humans are usually just so blinded by their own ideas that:**
 - ◆ They can not think outside of them...
 - ◆ **Are you like this? Or Have you taken the time to really consider the claims of the Bible?**
 - Have you ever asked yourself... if what they say about Jesus being Messiah God is true?
 - Then does this warrant some sort of response from me?

➤ 3) God's Power was Revealed

- **³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.**
 - Much can be said Here... But I can only share a little...
 - There are so many great arguments to prove the validity of the resurrection (ill give one)
- **God Raised Jesus from the dead...**
 - Jesus died on the cross... consider this... a man with flesh and blood is killed...
 - He is dead... and then all of a sudden three days later... He is alive...
 - **Not just alive, but walking around, appearing quickly from place to place... in perfect health**
 - ◆ This one time a tweaked my back... Took me 6 days to walk straight...
 - Jesus is back from the dead...
- **This is crazy talk...**
 - I'll be honest and say, it seems rather crazy
 - Not other religion makes this claim... No other belief system is centered around someone
 - Who has come back to life

- **Either this is a lie, its crazy or its true...**
- **Here, Paul believes it is true...**
 - He says... He appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem,
 - ◆ Who are now witnesses to the people
 - Jesus chose a certain amount of people He would appear to after being raised from the dead...
 - It was not just his disciples, it was also some women... It was also a huge group of 500 people
 - **We know of at least 12 groups of people Jesus appeared to**
 - ◆ From 1 person to numbers as high as 500
- **Paul may well be the greatest proof of the resurrection**
 - Here is a man that hates Christianity... so much he is hunting people down...
 - Then one day, He comes face to face with Jesus...
 - ◆ And his entire life is turned around...
 - **Paul would later write these words showing what a difference knowing Jesus was alive made**
 - ◆ **Philippians 3:7-8 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ**

➤ **4) God's Message is Here**

- **³² And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus,**
- **Paul spends little time on the death of Jesus...**
 - He has reminded them that Jesus was put to death...
 - A fact they probably were very well aware of...
- **He tells them again about the resurrection...**
 - This time He sums it all up, reminding them that it was promises fulfilled by their God...
- **What God promised to the fathers... He has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus...**
- **We bring you Good news...**
 - Paul travelled a long way to get there...
 - ◆ He travelled through very difficult terrain and dangerous places...
 - **Just to tell people the Good News that God has raised Jesus from the dead...**
 - ◆ Whoever believes in Him will attain eternal life... as well as the forgiveness of their sins...
- **Paul would later detail some of his difficulties in taking the gospel to people**
 - **2 Corinthians 11:24-27 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.**

❖ **Invitation**

- Can you see this good news today...? Can you see it is for you today as well?
- **What will you do with it?**
 - Will you believe it?
 - If you believe it, what will you then do with it?
- **2 Simple questions...**
 - that every person in this room should honestly ask themselves...