



Paul Preaches Jesus
Acts 13:14-26
November 27, 2016

Introduction:

Preaching is not a popular thing to do in the 21st Century, but it is still the preaching of the Gospel that changes lives today. The church knows little about great preaching in today's world of "church entertainment." Among the great preachers of yesterday's world are Charles Spurgeon, D.L. Moody, Alexander Maclaren, John Knox, John Owen, Alexander Whyte, Joseph Parker, and Jonathon Edwards, just to name a few.

John MacArthur:

"Sadly, many in the church today do not share Paul's commitment to preaching the Word. From today's pulpits come the uncertain sounds of psychology, relational chitchat, social commentary, storytelling, shallow homilies, and political rhetoric. Many view preaching as obsolete in today's use of user-friendly, entertainment-oriented churches. Programs, stubborn church members, and administrative details eat away at the preparation time of those pastors who do want to preach."

I. Paul's Sermon had a Setting.

A. Paul's sermon had a place.

Acts 13:13a (NKJV) Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia...

B. Paul's sermon dealt with a problem.

Acts 13:13b (NKJV) and John mark, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

I honestly believe that John Mark dropped out of the ministry because he was not ready for the hardship that ministry would bring. Especially the hardship of being a pioneer missionary.

II. Paul's Sermon had a Strategy.

A. The path they followed.

Acts 13:14a (NKJV) But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia...

B. The procedure they followed.

Acts 13:14b-15 (NKJV)...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.

The Old Testament Shema:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 (NKJV) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! ⁵You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

III. Paul's Sermon had a Subject of Sovereignty.

A. God was sovereign in Israel's slavery.

Acts 13:17 (NKJV) The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it.

B. God was sovereign in spite of Israel's stubbornness.

Acts 13:18 (NKJV) Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness.

Harry Ironside:

"How sad most of the history of the church is, but God has put up with our bad manners when we have acted like little children. He has dealt with us with such loving kindness not only collectively but individually. Too many of us can look back over the years and see how we have failed the Lord, but He has never failed us. We should all fall down on our faces and thank Him for not giving up on us while we were living such self-centered lives."

C. God was sovereign in Israel's settlement.

Acts 13:19 (NKJV) And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment.

D. God was sovereign in Israel's Judges.

Acts 13:20 (NKJV) After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet.

E. God was sovereign in Israel's selection of a King.

Acts 13:21-22 (NKJV) And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²²And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.

God called David a man after His own heart not because he was a perfect man, but because David saw his sin as something that broke God's heart and his repentance was as big as his sin.

F. God was sovereign in Israel's selection of a savior.

Acts 13:23-25 (NKJV) From this man's seed (David's seed), according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior--Jesus--²⁴after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not He. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.