



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of August 10, 2025

Acts 13:13-41

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, as also it is written in the second Psalm, “‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you.’ **34** And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, “‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’ **35** Therefore he says also in another psalm, “‘You will not let your Holy One see corruption.’ **36** For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, **37** but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. **38** Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, **39** and by him everyone who believes is freed[c] from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. **40** Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about: **41** “‘Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.’”

1. In our passage this week, Paul’s first recorded sermon comes on the heels of arduous and dangerous travel over sea and mountains, infused with sickness, difficulty and disappointment. We see in this, a man who was fully committed to his mission to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. How would you compare your commitment to evangelism? How is the Christian’s mission today different from Paul’s and why?

2. What do you think was the main point of Paul's sermon? Why do you think Paul starts his sermon by recounting 450 years of Israel's history showing how God and God alone chose, strengthened, delivered, and led His people to the promised land in spite of their complaining and rebellion?
3. Why do you think Paul includes in his sermon a reminder of:
- the period of the judges,
 - The Jews' yearning for a king and the rise and fall of Saul
 - King David and him being the forefather of the Savior
 - John the Baptist's ministry and humility

Choose one of the above and explain how it fits with the main point of Paul's sermon.

4. Paul next turns his focus from the saving acts of God and the exaltation of Christ to *the response* of God's chosen people. How does Paul describe the response of the people? (v.26-30) How does their response validate God's purpose and plan of salvation?
5. In spite of their rejection and murder of the Savior, Paul then preaches the good news that God raised back to life the One whom they had killed so that through Him they could have their sins forgiven. Paul quotes three prophecies from the Psalms to show them that this was God's intended plan all along and that Jesus' resurrection fulfills all of God's promises. What does this portion of Paul's sermon tell us about:
- the true nature and cost of our sin
 - man's greatest need
 - man's ability to save itself
 - how God uses evil and suffering for His plan and purposes

Choose one of the above and explain.

6. Paul ends his sermon with a warning to scoffers - there are many of you who will not believe. This highlights the fact that every human being is faced with an urgent choice to either believe or reject the gospel. Why do you think so many people do not sense the urgency to consider the eternal well being of their souls? How does Satan lull people into a spiritual apathy? What if anything can we as Christians do about it?