

The Parish of Wellow

'Be Daring and Dynamic' 24 Studies in Acts

Acts 13:16-48

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below or join us at **Coffee 'n' Stickers** Wednesday 6th September 7.30pm at the Cottage, High Street, Wellow (Call Pauline Preddy for directions 01225 832625) to discuss the questions further.

1. Talk Passage

Acts 13:16-48

16 Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!
17 The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt, with mighty power he led them out of that country,
18 he endured their conduct for about forty years in the desert,
19 he overthrew seven nations in Canaan and gave their land to his people as their inheritance.
20 All this took about 450 years. "After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet.
21 Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years.
22 After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'
23 "From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Saviour Jesus, as he promised.
24 Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel.
25 As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'
26 "Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.
27 The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath.
28 Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed.
29 When they had carried out all that was written about 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 was seen by those who had travelled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.
32 "We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers
33 he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: "'You are my Son; today I have become your Father. '
34 The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: "'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'
35 So it is stated elsewhere: "'You will not let your Holy One see decay.'
36 "For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed.
37 But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.
38 "Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.
39 Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.
40 Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:
41 "'Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you."
42 As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath.
43 When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.
44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying.
46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.
47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honoured the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

2. Talk Notes

2.1 Preparation for Jesus' coming

2.2 Significance of Jesus' resurrection

2.3 Outcome of Jewish rejection of Jesus

2.4 Effect of the Gospel proclaimed worldwide

3. Coffee 'n' Stickies Questions

3.1 From Paul's sermon to those gathered at Pisidian Antioch what do you see as the significance of Jesus' resurrection from the dead?

3.2 Given all the heritage of God's promises that belonged to the Jews why do you think they rejected Jesus and the message that Paul and Barnabas were preaching?

3.3 Look at verses 16, 26 and 46. a) Who is the 'us' to whom the message of salvation has been sent in verse 26? b) Notice from verse 46 how the rejection by the Jews meant the Gospel came to the Gentiles. Through this sad turn of events prophecy was fulfilled (v 47) Can you think of other instances, either in the Bible or in your own experience, where good comes out of something that seems less than ideal? c) Given all this does God still have a purpose for the Jews? Look at Romans 1:16 and any other passage you feel might be relevant.

3.4 'All who were appointed for eternal life believed' (v 48). If that is the case where does faith and personal response to the Gospel come in?

Ray Lockhart 3rd September 2006