

Acts 13:44-52

1. Homework - Galatians
2. Observation and exposition
3. The take-away for us?

Discussion questions

1. What is “the grace of God?” (13:43)
2. What’s the difference between grace and mercy?
3. What does Luke mean by “the word of the Lord?”

Observation and exposition

1. Brief recap of Acts 13 up to this point
2. Prime the pump again
 - a. Draw attention to God’s actions as primary throughout Acts 13 (the grace of God)
 - i. Who initiated this missionary journey that Paul and Barnabas are on? (13:2, 4)
 - ii. Who takes the initiative in redemptive history? (13:16-41)
 1. Did Abraham choose God?
 2. Who made them great while in Egypt?
 3. Who led them out of Egypt?
 4. Who tolerated them in the wilderness?
 5. Who destroyed the Canaanite nations and gave Israel the land?
 6. Who gave them the judges and the prophets?
 7. Who gave them Saul as a king?
 8. Who gave them David as a king?
 9. Who brought Jesus as a savior to Israel?
 10. Who gave John his course (path, mission)?
 11. Who sent the message of salvation to the apostles?
 12. Who wrote (inspired) all the prophecies about Jesus and made sure that they were fulfilled?
 13. Who raised Jesus from the dead?
 14. Who made promises to Israel’s fathers and fulfilled those promises in Jesus?
 15. Who gave David his purpose in life?
 16. Who forgives sins through Jesus?
 17. Who justifies sinners who believe in the message?
 - iii. Who takes the initiative in salvation?

3. Read the passage
4. Observation and exposition
 - a. Observe and record (use the whiteboard) how many times Luke refers to “the word of the Lord” or something similar in this passage.
 - b. Paul’s use of **Isaiah 49:6** [SLIDES]
 - c. The Greek text of **13:48** [SLIDE]
 - i. Very little textual variations in this verse
 - ii. F. F. Bruce quote [SLIDE]
 - iii. Ben Witherington quote [SLIDES]
 - d. Evangelism and the sovereignty of God
 - i. What is “the word of the Lord” that Luke refers to so often?
 1. The gospel message
 - ii. Is it significant how often Luke refers to this in this passage?
 - iii. The word of God and Jesus teaching and preaching in Luke/Acts
 1. **Luke 4:14-15; 16-30; 31-32; 42-44; 5:1** [SLIDES]
 - a. Throughout these passages and the rest of Luke Jesus is commonly referred to as “Teacher.”
 2. **Acts 1:1-2, 8; 2:42** [SLIDES]
 - iv. A heavy emphasis on the message of the gospel and the communicating of that message to those who need to hear it (everyone).
 - v. This is part of “human responsibility” in the “God’s sovereignty-human responsibility” paradox (antinomy).
 1. “Evangelism is man’s work, but the giving of faith is God’s [work].” Packer, 40 [SLIDE]
 - vi. God’s work in this passage is the appointing to eternal life and enabling belief in those who heard the word of the Lord (**13:48**)
 1. Read Packer, 114-118 [SLIDE]
 - vii. So, does God decide who believes? Or does he look down through the corridors of time, see who will believe, and then appoint them to eternal life based on their belief?
 - viii. An analogy might help
 1. Fire requires fuel, oxygen, and ignition
 2. Salvation requires unsaved people, the gospel message, and God’s action (election, regeneration, etc.)

The take-away for us

Resources

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce, 1990
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce, 1988
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson
4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III
6. *Evangelism & the Sovereignty of God*, J. I. Packer