Acts Series Lesson 27

Acts 13:5 - 52

"Missionaries On A Mission"

Introduction: Many times we look at the state of our country and find reasons for discouragement. She sure isn't what she used to be. It seems that morality and decency are increasingly taking a backseat to the whims of a secular society. There are more obstacles than ever between our neighbors and our God. In all of this some despair, but a Christian is never without hope no matter what the situation. Politics, education, and economics however impactful on a society are not the methods through which God has chosen to influence and help the world. As we saw in the first part of chapter 13 God called out individuals through the Local New Testament Church, God is still working that way today. The biblical pattern for the gospel ministry is what we are going to look at this morning.

1. Paul and Barnabas were missionaries on a mission.

 A. One of the major differences between a pastor and a missionary is the number of frequent flyer miles. Paul and Barnabas traveled extensively to reach a primarily Jewish audience.

 1. They would have had to leave friends, family, and the comforts of the familiar.

 2. The terrain of their travels and the audience of their message meant they were heading toward serious danger.

 B. Paul said it simply in 1 Thessalonians 5:25 "*Brethren pray for us."*

 1. A look back on Paul's ministry shows that he needed all the prayer he could get.

 2. Not many men have ever contributed more to a more lasting cause than the Apostle Paul. This has less to do with Paul as a man and more to do with the savior he gave his life to serve.

 C. We may not all be called to leave our country to serve God, but we are called to forsake our will and comfort at times for the sake of the gospel.

 1. Going to visitation requires that we come to church at 9:45 on saturday or 6:30 on Tuesdays.

 2. Being willing to talk to people about eternity is not an easy task.

 3. It may even mean that one day we have to suffer persecution from the government in order to keep obeying God.

 D. Prayer is not something that worked back then, missionaries today are still depending on our prayers.

 1. We are all busy but have to find ways that remind us to pray.

 a. Keep a prayer list

 b. Plan out a prayer schedule

 c. Set reminders on your phone

 d. Pray for missionaries as a family

 2. Realize that Hillcrest supports some missionaries that face the real danger of violence in their daily lives.

 3. All missionaries face opposition from Satan and from the world.

 4. We have a responsibility to partner with God's servants all over the world through prayer and therein play a very important role in God's work.

II. Their mission was to spread the gospel.

 A. One focus and goal led this team, to see lost souls saved.

 1. They were passionate about the deputy they came across, that he would have an opportunity to hear the gospel.

 2. Paul did not shirk back from the opportunity to preach in the synagogue of Antioch in Pisidia.

 B. As Christians, the moment we were saved was final. We are not going to be "more" saved as we walk with God in the world, but we can make an eternal difference in the lives of others here on earth. The gospel ought to be our focus and goal.

 1. Embracing this truth will be the source of much joy in your life.

 2. If you don't know how to share the gospel remember that every product has a process.

 a. Have you prayed for God to help you become a soul-winner?

 b. Have you gone out on visitation?.

 c. Have you tried to memorize the verses on the back of our church tracts?

 3. These are all ways that you can work to equip yourself for the work to which God has called you.

III. Their mission met opposition.

 A. False prophets and jealous men stood between the preachers and the people.

 1. V. 7, v. 45 their motivation was selfish.

 a. Acknowledging christ as savior would mean diminished importance for them.

 b. Therefore they tried to keep people from the truth.

 B. The false prophet is dead but his motivation lives on.

 1. If you are visiting today it is very likely that there are people in your life that do not want you to be in church today.

 a. Your commitment to Christ will the influence that some people have in your life.

 b. Remember that these people have themselves primarily in mind.

 2. If you have been a Christian for a long time you know that these people will try to affect you and those you try to reach for the Lord.

 C. Though it will not always be easy, when God's word preached finds a receptive audience it will change their lives.

 1. The deputy saw the power of God and believed.

 2. The gentiles heard the truth and believed.

 3. Consider the lives that would be changed if we commit to be faithful to the mission of spreading the gospel.

Conclusion: if it seems like this is talked about often, it is not because we are trying to manipulate people to spread the name of Hillcrest. It is our responsibility to lead and encourage you to do what God wants you to do. In this passage we find the example for of following God's plan so that others might be saved. Many times we can think "That person isn't interested in hearing the gospel". We should be more inclined to ask ourselves the question, "What if they are? What if they say yes?