

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral  
Lesson 28 “The Awakening in Galatia”

I. Introduction - We have been studying through *Acts* and how the gospel went viral through various revivals in the first century throughout the book of *Acts*. These include Pentecost - 3,000 saved, healing of lame man - *Acts 3-4* - 5,000 saved, *Acts 5* - all Jerusalem filled with the doctrine of Christ due to signs and wonders, the revival in Samaria - *Acts 8* - the outpouring of the Spirit on the Gentiles in *Acts 10*, and the awakening in Antioch in *Acts 11*.

A. Last week we began studying *Acts 13* and Paul’s first missionary journey. *Acts 13* shifts the focus of *Acts* from Peter and John to Paul. We see a shift.

B. Today we are going to continue looking at Paul’s first missionary journey which began in 46-47 A.D as we study the Awakening in Galatia. We are going to see how Paul and his team took the gospel to uncharted territory (modern day Turkey) and began to reach the Gentiles.

1. I feel like my sub-theme for today is “forget the former things, behold I do new thing from **Isaiah 43:18-19**.
2. In these verses, we see the former thing replaced by a new thing. Those who embraced the new were blessed and those that clung to the past were left behind.
3. As the Lord was showed me these things this week as I prepared, I sensed there is a prophetic edge on this message today. Some of you need to let go of some things and embrace the new thing God is doing.

**A. Acts 13:13-16 The Leadership Shift**

1. **Verse 13** Paul and his party. We see a shift. Previously we had seen Barnabas listed first. Here is a shift in recognition of authority and whose leading the group. To his credit, Barnabas was humble even as Paul’s anointing eclipsed his.
2. **Verse 14** They next come to Antioch in Pisidia. This is a different Antioch than the one they were originally sent from. Apparently in the ancient world, there were several cities named Antioch.
3. **Verses 15-16** the custom in that day was to read from the law and prophets and then educated people were invited to speak on subjects. Paul used that opportunity to speak and share the gospel.

**B. Acts 13:17 Paul Give’s Overview of Jewish History and How It Points To Jesus**

1. **Verses 17-20** Paul gives an overview of the exodus to the time of *Judges*.
2. **Verses 21-23** Israel requests a king. Was this God’s will? No. God said he would tax you, marry your daughters, and send your men to war, but he gave the people what they wanted.

- a. Saul was the first king and replaced by David. Eventually Saul sinned and God told him I have chosen a man after my own heart.
  - b. Saul reigned 40 years and made this statement in year 2 of Saul's reign. This is 8 years before David's birth. God prophesied what the solution would be like before the solution was born. He calls those things that be not as though they are. **David eventually replaced Saul.**
  - c. God always has the solution before we have a problem. Ex: **Rev 13:8.**
  - d. Some clung to the house of Saul after the anointing had left and after Saul was dead and it didn't work out for those folks.
3. **Verses 24-25** Jesus replaced the greatest O.T. prophet, John the Baptist. John did not hold onto the past or his position, but allowed Jesus to have his way.
  4. **Verses 26-32** Paul then references how the Jews did not recognize the season of change. They did not recognize the presence of Jesus who the prophets always pointed to, but rather had the Romans put him to death.
  5. **Verses 33-40** Paul begins to compare David and the Son of David (Jesus). Quotes **Psalm 16:10** and implies David saw corruption but Jesus.
    - a. He also says Jesus will have the sure mercies of David - **Isaiah 55:1-3.** Those who fill up on junk food won't be hungry for that which satisfies.

### C. Acts 13:41-49 Blessing and Conflict

1. Paul quotes **Habakkuk 1:5** in **Acts 13:40**. Most of the Jews (former thing) did not receive his word and become angry while the Gentiles are thrilled and beg Paul and his team to come back the next week. **The old was envious of the new.**
2. Paul and Barnabas then boldly declared that since the Jews rejected their ministry, they would turn to the Gentiles and quoted **Isaiah 49:6**.
3. When the Gentiles heard their message, they rejoiced in the Lord and the word of the Lord spread throughout the region.

### D. Takeaways

1. The obvious is the Old Testament always pointed to Jesus. When Moses (the law) and Elijah (the prophets) stood with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, God said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I'm well pleased hear Him."
2. God sometimes defies our expectations and will use the unexpected or or less respected part above the the part or person you would expect to bring the miraculous. Examples include Joseph, David, Paul, the Demoniac. What's my point? I have a sense the Lord is going to do some unexpected things in people's lives to bring His will to pass right now and we have to be open for change.

## III. Conclusion

- A. Pray Closing Prayer and Call Up Prayer Team.