**Unstoppable - wk 21 – More Than Ready**

**Acts is Jesus: The Sequel. Luke Vol 2 – The “what now?”**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” \* Supernatural growth / intense persecution, yet unstoppable.**

**It’s 15-20 yrs since the resurrection. A church has prayed and released Paul and Barnabas to take the good news to the world.**

**BTW - Senders and goers, both important for Kingdom mission.**

**The JOURNEY**

**Last wk they started at Cyprus, Barnabas home – now…**

**MAP - Acts 13:13 From Paphos, Paul and his companions (Paul leading) sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John (Mark) left them to return to Jerusalem. (We don’t know why. Acts 15 we find out – Paul was unhappy about it)**

**Modern day Turkey - the area was called Galatia. They spent some time in coastal city Perga – large costal capital city.**

**14 From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch.**

**A 5-day 100m walk up and over into the valley of Antioch of Pisidian. An important trade route that led to Ephesus.**

**(Arrived and settled in) 14b On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. 15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak.” (Customarily read the Law, read the prophets and any educated persons were invited to speak –**

**How about you? Don’t mind if I do! More than happy & ready.**

**Things to Know when Sharing your faith**

1. **God opens the doors – you do not need to force them**

**Be faithful and be ready – 1 Peter 3:15 - …always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect…**

**How to be ready? Know what you’re talking about / pray / listen**

**The SERMON**

**Acts 13:16 Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said:**

**Luke gives Pau’s sermon – someone was taking notes**

**At the heart of the sermon is the supremacy of Christ and the Cross – straight up the gospel. I want to high light some themes.**

**Acts 13:16 Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, (Greek converts to Judaism) listen to me! 17 The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; (Abraham) he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; (Moses Exodus) 18 for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; 19 and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, (Joshua conquest) giving 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. (Following the Bible narrative) 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. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; (chases after my heart) he will do everything I want him to do.’ 23 “From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.**

1. **The entire OT is about Jesus the Messiah and our need for Him**

**Messiah = promises savior – the One.**

**All the patriarchs (Abe, Isaac, Jacob), Moses, and the kings that followed were all pointing to Jesus! It was all leading to Jesus. He was the plan! Jesus is the promised Messiah – the ONE.**

**13:24 Before the coming of Jesus, John (the Baptist) preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. (Many Jewish people knew and considered John a prophet) 25 As John was completing his work, he said: ‘Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’ (Quoting Gospel of Mark!!)**

**Jesus was no ordinary man – he was God on earth!**

**John the Baptist responded the right way to Jesus - servant / disciple unties sandals of his teacher. I am not worthy to do that.**

1. **No one is worthy of Jesus – that is why grace is so amazing!!!**

**He did not die for you because you were worth it. It was not your worth – it was his love & grace. It is only in his salvation that we have value.**

**Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Ro 5:10 we were enemies of God.)**

**We don’t do missions because people are worth it – we do mission because we love people and obedience.**

**Acts 13:26 “Fellow 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. (Promised in the scriptures, “Scriptures…testify of me.” John 5:39 - 300 prophecies fulfilled perfectly) 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 cross and laid him in a tomb.**

1. **God is always working his will and plan for His good purposes**

**Even in suffering, trials, and pain – God is fulfilling His word and will.**

**Acts 2:23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.**

**They chose of their own volition and evil desires – yet fulfilling God’s perfect pre-ordained decided plan.**

**(praying) Acts 4:27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. (Their choice was God’s decree)**

**The cross was not a mistake or tragedy.**

**\*\* God’s will is always done – Job 42:2 - “I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted.**

**\*\* Despite and with the help of even wicked choices.**

**When you see pain and trials – know God is working.**

**Acts 13: (Jesus in the tomb, but it’s not the end!) 30 But God (two wonderful, amazing words) raised him from the dead, 31 and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people. (They have seen him, ask them – the proof)**

**5. The Gospel is not a philosophy to follow, but a proclamation of facts**

**Christianity is not ideals, ethics, or belief system - positive confession or meditation – being one with self or finding the god-conscience.**

**Jesus lived (fact) Jesus said he was God and called people to follow him (fact) Jesus was crucified (fact) the tomb is empty (fact) people saw him alive (fact) – what will you do with that?**

**13:32 “We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors (thru the OT prophets) 33 he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: (Ps 2:7) “‘You are my son; today I have become your father.’ (God calling the Messiah - the only distinct son of God - Jesus)**

**34 God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said, (Is 55:3) “‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’ 35 So it is also stated elsewhere: (Ps 16:10) “‘You will not let your holy one see decay.’ (I love how Paul preaches Jesus with the OT scriptures.)**

**36 “Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. 37 But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. (David was a great king – but he died – but not JESUS!)**

1. **Everything we believe rest on the resurrection of Jesus!**

**Paul preaches - the good news is fulfilled / proven, “by raising up Jesus.”**

**The resurrection proves he is the messiah - promised savior.**

**It proves God’s love and grace – proves our sins are forgiven.**

**Our entire faith rest on the resurrection. If not true, let’s go home**

**1 Cor 15 – if Christ be not raised – our faith is futile and we are pitiful**

**Paul then gives the reason and purpose of the cross and resurrection!**

**Acts 13:38 “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is set free (justified) from every sin, a justification (a freedom) you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses. (Jesus fulfils the temple sacrifices!)**

**\*This was the point of it all - and why it’s good news!!**

1. **The Gospel is good news because the bad news is so dreadful**

**\*\* Bad news: we are sinners separated from the One and only HOLY Almighty God of all creation and due judgment for our sin & rebellion.**

**\*\* Good News: Jesus died and rose again – for the forgiveness of sins. We can now have communion with God almighty. Once separated by our sins – no longer for those who have faith!!**

**This is the only Gospel – The deity, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ - for the forgiveness of sin. There is no other gospel.**

* **The Deity (Jesus is fully God the Christ in the flesh, without sin)**
* **The Death (Jesus is fully man and was crucified and buried)**
* **The Resurrection (Jesus rose from the dead – confirming it all)**
* **All to Forgive us our sins - Reconcile us to the father – Our need.**

**The PROBLEM - our sin.**

**But GOOD NEWS – Jesus! This hit their heart.**

**Earliest gospel creed dating within months of the resurrection Paul declares –**

**1 Corinthians 15:1** **Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, (Peter) and then to the Twelve.**

**The good news is simply - The Deity - Death – and Resurrection of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.**

**This truth is what saves you.**

1. **In Christ you are set free from sin – once and for all!**

**Acts 13:38-39 - If you truly believe this by faith - you are Justified - set free from sin! - \*\* But we still sin what does that mean?**

**Justification = declared free – declared righteous. Made right. Legal term – Acquitted. Vindicated. Just as if I never sinned.**

**What’s my part? You don’t have one. By faith you are made right. What do I do to keep it? Nothing. It is finished.**

**Eph 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

**Hebrews 10:10 - And by that will we have been sanctified (set apart) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

**Paul wrote a later to the churches in Galatia (Galatians) it included this church. Warning to live by grace - don’t go back, you are free!**

**(Then a loving urgent warning) 40 Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: (Habakkuk 1:5) 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.’”**

**Don’t reject this like people did the OT prophets. God judged and utterly destroyed them for rejecting the LORD – how much more so now – if you reject the LORD Jesus.**

1. **Salvation is found nowhere else - except in the perfect one Jesus.**

**Nothing else, no one else, no other religion, meditation, or education**

**No other way to forgiveness of sin, no other hope, no other peace.**

**Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.**

**Paul told them that to - reject Jesus is to reject eternal life.**

**John said it again – 1 John 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

**What will you do with this today? Do you believe this?**

**This was his sermon and invitation - similar to what Stephen preached in Acts 7 (Which Paul would have heard) and still rang in his ears.**

**There response is next week – you’re response is this week.**

**Rewind - Acts 13:36 “Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. 37 But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.**

**That is my heart’s cry! I want to serve the purposes of God in my generation! One day I will “sleep” will that be said of me? Of You?**