

The Wait is Over

# The Wait is Over

Daniel Good

Acts

**E · Introduction:** Good morning GPC! It's great to be here together! If you're back for the first time since the holidays, it's great to have you back! If you're visiting us today, we are so glad you are here! As we've been saying, we don't believe that it's any accident that you are here! We believe God has you here for a reason.

Today, we are going to be talking about Acts 13:13-43. Acts is the fifth book of the New Testament, right after John and before Romans.

o Over the last year or so we've been going through the book of Acts, breaking it down and applying it to our lives verse by verse! While you're turning there, let me just go over a few announcements.

§ (Nauvoo at Night- volunteers for slides, to greet, etc.)

o Would you please stand with me for the reading of God's word? This is God's word. (Read Acts 13:21-25).

Let me pray. (Pray, you may be seated, drink).

· This morning we get to look at one of Paul's sermons. One of the unique things about Paul's sermons is that they have the same central theme, but the way he communicates his point is different depending on the audience.

o In some ways it's like coaching basketball. Everyone has to defend the Pick and Roll, but the way you do it will be different. Some games you may have your center

come up to the high side of the screener and “hedge.” Other games, you may switch. Other times, I’d have my players do something called *ICING*, where our on-ball defender would literally jump so that the ball-handler couldn’t even get to the screen and was forced into a double-team!

§ All of these are different ways to do the same thing; defend the Pick and Roll! But, in practice, they are all very different!

§ Likewise, when Paul preaches, he’s preaching with the same goal; **PROCLAIMING JESUS**, but the way he does it varies on his audience!

- Other than his consistent proclamation of Jesus, there’s another truth for us to apply as we look at this sermon to a heavily Jewish audience.

- In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, we read that, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

- o So I want to encourage us this morning to hear Paul’s plea and to let it equip us for serving the Lord!

§ ***This morning, our main point is Paul’s main plea: The Necessity of Grace.***

- **BODY:** Acts is like an old friend, isn’t it? Before we dive too deep into our passage, let’s just recall what happened at the start of Acts 13. See, in Acts 13, our attention shifts. There’s 4 parts to Acts as a book and this starts the 3rd of 4 parts.

- o This third part is Paul’s mission trips!

§ In Acts 13:1-12, we saw Paul and Barnabas commissioned by their home church in Antioch and they departed for Cyprus, prepared to bring the gospel with them!

§ In fact, they did! They brought the gospel to the proconsul with great reception and even were witness to God miraculously blinding someone who was mocking Him!

- God worked powerfully on Cyprus! But the mission trip was not done while on Cyprus!

- Before we dive into today's passage, I do want to make one note. Their mission trip was a little different than our modern ones. They did not have a set arrival or departure; they went where God wanted and stayed as long as God wanted!

- o There's something truly beautiful about the way that Paul and Barnabas pursued discipleship in the midst of this!

- Looking at Acts 13:13-14, we read, "Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, 14 but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down."

- o Paul and his companions leave Cyprus, their first stop and they sail north to what is now the southern coast of Turkey. This region is called Pamphylia.

§ It's here that John Mark turns and goes south to Jerusalem. This is not a major detail for today, but make a note of that, maybe put a star in your Bible next

to it. It will become very important a little later.

- God is going to use this departure down the road to double the spread of the gospel!

- o Now, as Paul and Barnabas and their companions continue on, they go to Pisidian Antioch.

§ Notice that on the sabbath day they go to the synagogue and they sit down.

- Now, synagogues are not something you will find in the Old Testament. See, they were started up when the people of Israel were exiled and spread all around the known world!

- The people obviously couldn't go to Jerusalem for teaching, so Rabbi's, literally meaning "teachers" began to teach **WHERE THE PEOPLE WERE!**

- o At a synagogue, there would be a scripture reading and then a time of teaching, not too dissimilar from **CHURCH TODAY!**

- Paul and Barnabas go to the synagogue, once again, something that wasn't all that out of the ordinary for believers at this time!

§ What happens next is pretty cool! Luke writes, "After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." 16 So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:"

- o So, Paul and Barnabas are asked to speak! Why are they asked? Well, scholars have suggested that they are dressed as a rabbi. This would make sense given that they come with a message to teach; the message of

## GOOD NEWS!

· Let me read the end of verse 16-verse 25. This is all one part of his message, then we'll talk about it together.

· “Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’

o Paul is addressing the Jews of Antioch and he is also addressing the Gentiles; that is those who FEAR GOD! That's the only reason a Gentile would be at a synagogue; because THEY FEAR GOD!

§ Let's walk through what Paul brings up. First, he

reminds the people how God literally rescued them from their bondage and slavery in Egypt.

§ Then as Paul so accurately says, “HE PUT UP WITH THEM” for 40 years in the wilderness! Think about this; the wilderness wandering is usually talked about in the context of disobeying God, but WHAT A SIGN OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS AND MERCY!

- GOD WAS MERCIFUL TO ISRAEL THROUGH THIS!

- Then, BECAUSE OF HIS MERCY, God brought the people of Israel into the promised land!

- Their stay in Egypt and their Exodus into conquering the land took about 450 years total. After that, as Paul reminds the assembly, God provided judges and prophets like Samuel!

- o Then, Israel wanted a king, just like what was prophesied in Deuteronomy 17. Once again, God was faithful and He provided a king.

- o The first king of Israel was Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for 40 years. His reign was marked by his mistakes and by God taking the throne from his line after just one generation!

§ Following Saul’s death, David became king. Paul paraphrases 1 Samuel 13:14 saying, “I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.”

- This is originally GOD speaking to Saul and telling Saul that the throne will be taken from his family. What a humbling moment!

§ Do you see what comes next? He mentions that the promised Messiah; the promised Savior will come

through this line! Paul immediately says that this savior is Jesus!

- Then, he talks about John and how John came baptizing but only to prepare a way.

- o So, let's take a step back. This is literally a masterclass in how-to do evangelism! Paul is CONTEXTUALIZING and establishing a shared relationship and background THEN HE PROCLAIMS JESUS!

- § He has to establish this relationship because NO ONE knows him! But, what they do know after he says all of this is that he KNOWS THEIR HISTORY AND TRULY IS A MAN QUALIFIED TO TEACH!

- § To make this more applicable, I went to Wyoming. We just had our bowl game 12/30. Unfortunately, Ohio beat us in Overtime. But who am I more likely to listen to on why we lost; one of our coaches, or someone from Djibouti who has never even seen a football game?

- OBVIOUSLY the coach from UW! That's what Paul is establishing; he's showing that he knows what he is saying.

- For us, if you are sharing the gospel with a friend or a coworker or family member, this is where your testimony comes in!

- o ***Your daily life shows that you know what you are talking about!***

- Let's keep going as Paul keeps preaching! Paul says, *"Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. 27 For those who live in*

*Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. 28 And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. 29 And when they had carried out all that was written of 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 appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. 32 And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, 33 this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you.”*

· Paul speaks further about Jesus, this time talking about how the people of Israel did not recognize Jesus!  
o Every week the Jewish people heard scripture taught!  
Every week they heard it taught at a high level!

Remember, Paul spent literally YEARS of his life training to do this! Yet the people of ISRAEL COULD NOT APPLY SCRIPTURE TO THEIR LIVES!

§ This is a trap we can fall into too! As we read through the Bible or the NT this year as a church, let's ENSURE that we guard our hearts and minds by APPLYING WHAT WE READ!

· It isn't enough just to read scripture; we need to LIVE IT OUT ON A DAILY BASIS! We need to let it TRANSFORM US IN THE GRACE OF GOD!

o Paul points out that the religious rulers and the



people of Jerusalem fulfilled what had been foretold condemning Jesus to death on the cross **DESPITE HIS INNOCENCE!**

§ Jesus died on that cross, but as Paul says, “God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people.”

· In other words, **JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD!** But this isn't some mystery, it was

o (A)- Because of God and

o (B)- there are many eyewitnesses!

· These eyewitnesses are the disciples, apostles and many other early believers!

o **MANY PEOPLE** saw Jesus, not just a few!

o Notice the **HUGE** emphasis that Paul places on the resurrection! Paul is arguing that **JESUS IS THE MESSIAH** and he is showing that **JESUS rose from the DEAD UNLIKE ANYONE ELSE!**

o On top of his appeal, he loops everything right back to scripture; in this case to the second psalm where he quotes David prophesying, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you.”

§ Do you see what Paul is doing? He is evangelizing using current events, eyewitnesses, fulfilled prophecies and is tying it all together!

· We don't have to be as polished as this to share our faith, but do we see the importance of knowing scripture for evangelism?

o Scripture strengthens our faith in many, many ways, including our evangelism, just like we are seeing here!

· Listen to what Paul says next! He says, ***“And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way, “I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’ Therefore he says also in another psalm, “You will not let your Holy One see corruption.”***

o Paul first quotes from Isaiah 55:3 and then from Psalm 16:10. Notice how Paul continues to quote prophecy! He is able to back up what he is saying! He knows his audience and tailors his message to them

§ This message is very different from some of the messages we’ll see him give later in Acts. The actual point is the SAME, but the method is very different!

o Jesus is the HOLY AND SURE BLESSING and JESUS ALSO NEVER SINNED, therefore, he did not “see corruption!”

§ Before we go forward, I just want to take a second and challenge us that the psalms are so much more than just a book of poetry! There’s praise, prophecy and so much more in them!

· Paul still is not done though! He ends his message by saying, ***“36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, 37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. 38 Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and by him everyone who believes is freed***

***from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. 40 Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about: 41 “Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.”***

o As Paul concludes, he continues to show how Jesus is the MESSIAH; who brings GRACE AND FREEDOM FROM THE LAW! He never takes his foot off the gas!

o Here, he shows how David completed his purpose and died. Jesus on the other hand ROSE FROM THE DEAD!

§ Jesus is FAR GREATER THAN DAVID! That really appeals to the Jewish people! They held up David as a superhero almost!

§ Jesus is FAR GREATER THOUGH! Salvation can't come through David, but as Paul argues strongly in verses 39 and 40, SALVATION CAN AND DOES come from Jesus!

· The law can't do it! David can't do it! Joshua can't do it! JESUS DID IT!

o Notice how Paul ends his statements though. He once again quotes scripture! He quotes from Habakkuk 1:5! This is a warning!

§ LOOK, GOD IS WORKING! BUT NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE IT, EVEN IF THEY ARE TOLD ABOUT IT!

· That's true of this generation! That's the entire point

of Paul's message! He's proclaiming the long-awaited salvation and TRYING TO GET THE PEOPLE TO LISTEN!

- But there's a second part to this prophecy. It came true in Habbakuk's day and NOW! Paul is quoting this to the assembly of this synagogue as a challenge!

- o He's telling them to listen and to grasp what JESUS HAS DONE!

§ That's powerful!

- After Paul is finished preaching we read, "As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. 43 And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God.

- o As Paul and Barnabas leave, the people BEG THEM TO TELL THEM MORE!

§ This is a tremendous open door. What we will see next week is that Paul and Barnabas are FAITHFUL TO CONTINUE SHARING THE GOSPEL!

§ Paul and Barnabas further are faithful to URGE THEM TO FOLLOW THE GRACE OF GOD! As we will see next week, Grace is not always a popular concept.

- **CONCLUSION:** Well, what a place to end. What a passage to look at! Today we saw Paul emphasize grace and how salvation had been foretold and promised for the entire length of the Old Testament!

- o As we come to a close this morning, there are two applications that I see for us.

o First, as we mentioned in our introduction, all scripture is USEFUL for many things!

§ In this passage, what I really want us to pull out is GRACE! GRACE! The lives we live need to be marked by grace!

§ To be clear, this is not the cultural norm. BUT, let's also be clear. Instead of talking about how evil our culture is for wanting punishment, let's instead take a second to see how we have the CURE for the problem!

· To put this another way, let's REDEEM culture! Let's do it in the name of Christ BRINGING GRACE with us! Let's SHOW THE WORLD WHAT GRACE MEANS!

· When someone wrongs us? Let's bring grace! When someone hurts us? Let's bring grace! When something causes strife? Let's bring grace leading to unity! So what is grace?

o In this passage, I think we saw it in the form of Salvific grace and it has two applications for us. First, is salvation!

o Secondly, it should challenge us to GIVE GRACE AND TO FORGIVE!

§ Rather than holding someone's mistakes against them, we should be peace-seeking, loving, GRACE-FILLED, reflecting that to our world!

§ This is a message we can take! Rather than seeking out vindictiveness, we can give GRACE! Rather than always seeking to be right, we can be humble and GIVE GRACE!

· So practically, what does this mean?

· Well, I think a great place to start is your family and

your marriage.

o If a non-believer lived with you for a week, would they see grace? Or would they see an attitude set totally on perfection, never accepting anything less than that?

o As Christians we know that we are all sinners. We do want to be fighting sin, but we also want to give grace to one another and we want to be marked by our forgiveness for each other.

· **So this week, let's bring GRACE WITH US! Let's DEMONSTRATE WHAT GRACE IS TO OUR WORLD!**

o There's another part of Grace that I mentioned. That is *salvific grace*, or God's saving grace!

§ If you are here today and you have not accepted God's gift of saving grace through FAITH IN JESUS, I want to call on you to do that today!

§ Salvation requires faith and it requires us saying, "Lord, we aren't enough to make up for our sin! SAVE US FROM OUR SIN THROUGH JESUS!"

· It's a HUMBLE action and a humble cry. As we'll see next week, that can be hard!

§ So if you are here today and you have not accepted God's SAVING GRACE, I want to encourage you to do so today! If you have any questions, please come talk to me after service.

· Let me pray for us.