

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Acts 13:15, 16a, 26-39

April 12, 2019

We are witnesses of *the mission of God*.

- Paul and Barnabas - new arrivals in Pisidian Antioch
- Invited to offer a *word of exhortation/encouragement*
- No doubt they expected: *God says, God wants, you are supposed to...*
- Paul instead recounts ***the mission of God*** - *God's work for his people*
 - ♦ God chose Abram - from 1 a great nation - taking them out of Egypt
 - ♦ Settling them in Canaan - the Judges - King Saul - King David
 - ♦ David's descendant: Jesus - John the Baptist identifying Messiah Jesus

All this was purely and totally God's work - ***the mission of God***.

Then Paul said: ²⁶ "*Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that **this message of salvation has been sent...***"

- Knowing our Bible History, hearing the Scriptures today...

We are witnesses of *the mission of God*.

God did all of this to bring *the mission of God* to its critical climax.

- ❖ God reveals the Son he sent to fulfill his mission
 - God revealed Jesus: the promised Son of David Forever King - Messiah
 - Israel in rejecting him as God's Messiah, fulfilled ***the mission of God***.
 - ♦ We witnessed this critical work of God's Savior in Lent/Holy Week.
 - They killed and buried God's Son. **God raised** his Son from the dead.
- ³² "*We are preaching to you the good news about **the promise that was made to our fathers**. ³³ **God has fulfilled this promise for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm:***
- You are my Son. Today I have begotten you.* EHV
- ***the mission of God: God promised - God fulfilled - God raised up***
 - How does this verse from Psalm 2 proclaim this truth?
 - ♦ *raised up* - like raising up a prophet - God provided (not resurrection)
 - ♦ *begotten* - not created, but sent forth, cf. context of Psalm 2
 - No one can stop ***the mission of God*** from being fulfilled!
 - ♦ Jesus proclaimed the mission finished. In raising Jesus, God said, *Amen!*
 - ♦ God announces: ***mission complete. God did it all!***

- ❖ God provides strong witnesses
 - **God provided** witnesses: the Risen Lord appeared to those who knew him
 - ♦ Some in attendance may have witnessed the events of Christ's Passion
 - **God provided** centuries of witnesses. The Scripture they'd heard in weekly worship also witnessed: this has always been ***the mission of God***
 - ♦ They had everything they needed to recognize ***the mission of God***
- ❖ God sends the message that saves
 - ²⁶ "*Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that **this message of salvation has been sent...***"
 - ♦ **God himself sent** Paul and Barnabas with this saving message.
 - This is more than a message *about* salvation. **God sends** his message with **his power** to save - to create faith - raising the spiritually dead to life.
 - "*The Gospel does not intend to reveal how one might be saved, but gives, brings, and bestows salvation with all that is connected with it. The gospel does **not** want to teach that one must believe in order to be saved, but it wants to create the faith through which one is saved.*"
Herman Gieschen, *Theologische Quartalschrift*, Vol. 7, No. 4, Oct. 1910
 - ***The mission of God*** brought this message to you. **God did that!**
- ❖ Witness God's mission recognizing Jesus' saving work.
 - ***The mission of God*** reveals pure grace - He comes to save us.
 - ***The mission of God*** is accomplished in & through Jesus' completed work
 - The goal of ***God's mission***: rescue you from sin being your master
 - ♦ Sin rules when you think you are the master of your life/will/choices
 - ♦ Where sin rules, both death and Satan have a hold of you.
 - ♦ Jesus paid for all our sins, conquered death, crushed Satan's power
 - ♦ God's message creates faith, that wants Jesus to be my Shepherd/master
 - Where Jesus rules, sin and death can't work their rot & ruin.
 - Delighting in *the mission of God* - goal: Jesus is my 100% Lord
 - rescuing me from me, my foolishness, my blindness, sin's influence
 - Ignoring Jesus, his word = not recognizing him, blocking his work
 - Convicted that his is foolish and harmful - cry: *Jesus, rule me.*
 - ♦ Wanting to be in Jesus' flock 24-7-365, listening to him
 - Letting his saving word work wonders - reading, reflecting, maturing
 - You have witnessed and will witness Jesus' saving work - the wonders of ***the mission of God***
 - Living in him, you are one whom God sends in ***the mission of God***
 - With the Lord as my Shepherd - under his care...

We are witnesses of *the mission of God*.