

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION - 5/19-20/15
JESUS, THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL THINGS: ACTS 13:13-41



SCRIPTURE

ACTS 13:13-41

BIG IDEA

In chapter 13, Paul preaches his first recorded sermon in the book of Acts, and by examining this scene we learn four things about evangelism (telling people the gospel) and two things about ultimate reality.

Evangelism: 1) Be ready, 2) tell people mainly about Jesus, not yourself, 3) know your audience, and 4) trust the Holy Spirit to change people's hearts.

Ultimate reality. 1) Jesus is the fulfillment of the Bible who is the "Savior...as [God the Father] promised." The Bible is not about great men and women of God. Rather, the Bible is about the great God of men and women—Jesus. 2) Jesus is the fulfillment of the human race who has received from the Father "the holy and sure blessings of David." This blessing is that Jesus is the resurrected forever-King who will establish His kingdom and bring about the justice and peace the world needs. Another way Jesus is the fulfillment of the human race is by being the Savior of whom the prophet wrote, "You will not let your Holy One see corruption." This is about the resurrection of Jesus, which is a promise that the future you want is fulfilled in Him. As Michael Williams points out, "The resurrection is something of a foretaste, a movie trailer or commercial for God's ultimate future, for in Christ's resurrection we have a picture of the future given before its arrival. ...[the bodily resurrection of Jesus] claims that history is moving toward nothing less than a fully restored and glorified universe. Those who are in Christ, along with the entirety of creation, will receive His resurrection life upon His appearing (Rom. 8:21-25)."

But how do we know if Jesus is our personal fulfillment and we are forgiven and acceptable before God? If our faith is in Jesus alone and His work in His sinless life, death on the cross, and bodily resurrection as our Savior-King—"Through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses."

[DISCUSSION ON NEXT PAGE]

DISCUSSION

By examining this scene we learn four things about evangelism (telling people the gospel). **1)** Be ready, **2)** tell people mainly about Jesus, not yourself, **3)** know your audience, and **4)** trust the Holy Spirit to change people's hearts.

1. Which of these most stands out to you and why?

2. Was there anything from the sermon, the big idea, or Acts 13 that **stood out** to you, **challenged** you, or **confused** you?

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Bible who is the "Savior...as [God the Father] promised." The Bible is not about great men and women of God. Rather, the Bible is about the great God of men and women—Jesus.

3. When people read the Bible they can easily miss the forest for the trees. What are some of the *trees* people focus on in the Bible, rather than focussing their hearts on the *forest* (Jesus) to whom the whole Bible points?

Jesus is the resurrected forever-King who will establish His kingdom and bring about the justice and peace the world needs.

4. Which areas of the world do you think are most obviously in need of true justice and lasting peace? How should Jesus being the forever-King that will one day come back and put things right give you hope in the midst of this world?

The bodily resurrection of Jesus claims that history is moving toward nothing less than a fully restored and glorified universe. Those who are in Christ, along with the entirety of creation, will receive His resurrection life upon His appearing (Rom. 8:21-25).

5. What words does Paul use in Romans 8:21-25 to describe what will one day happen to the whole creation? What words does he use to describe what will one day physically happen to Christians? How does the Christian view of the future differ from other views? How should our concrete hope for the future affect how we think and live today?