



St. Paul Lutheran Church

“Your Refuge from the Storm”

Daily Walk on the Rock

Acts 13:13-26

April 21, 2024

Monday

ACTS 14

This chapter finds Paul and Barnabas in Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. What is the importance of the miracles described in verse 3? What results from the healing (8-15)? What does Paul emphasize about God? In verses 19-20 we are told of the stoning of Paul. Imagine being part of the body of new believers in 21-25. How would you feel after hearing about how they were treated? The people that Paul and Barnabas encounter along the way interpret the gospel in different ways. How do we interpret the gospel today, with our own prejudices and beliefs?

Tuesday

ACTS 15

What made you a Christian? And how did it happen? Think for a moment about how you might have felt as a Jew. How might you have felt as a Gentile? What is the main issue in 1-2? How would you describe Peter's struggle with this issue (7-11)? There is a struggle between theology, experience and practical application in the decisions of this council. Do you think our churches today struggle with this, also? Why? Verses 36-41 tell us of Barnabas and Paul's disagreement over Mark. This caused them to form two teams. What does this say about how God can work through conflict? Later, Mark became an important part of Paul's ministry (Colossians 4:10). How is that possible?

Wednesday

ACTS 16

Today's focus is verses 16-40. Here we are told about Paul and Silas' imprisonment. Why did Paul cast the spirit out of the girl (16-18)? What was the charge against them (20-21)? How were they treated (22-24)? What does their response show about them (25)? What caused the jailer to want salvation (25-30)? If you were falsely accused and thrown into a dark jail with your feet fastened in stocks, would you be able to still trust in God's plan? Spend time in prayer reflecting on the joy, strength and hope that faith brings to you.

Thursday

ACTS 17

Today's focus is verses 16-32. Paul is greatly distressed to find that Athens is full of idols (16). What does Paul emphasize about God in 23-30? How does Paul use the people's own culture to relate to God? What is their response (32-34)? Paul never hesitates to tell others about Christ, even though some refuse to believe. Paul does not leave the gospel message unfinished. He confronts his listeners with Jesus' resurrection and its meaning – either a blessing or a

punishment (30-31). How about you? Are you willing to share the gospel, even if only a few believe, because it's worth the effort? Why or why not?

Friday

ACTS 18

Today's focus is verses 18-28. Here we learn of a couple, Priscilla and Aquila, tentmakers who travel with Paul and help start the church in Ephesus. Since earning a living was important to support both life and ministry, why was making tents advantageous to Priscilla and Aquila, and also to Paul? What influence did Apollos have (27-28)? How did Priscilla and Aquila assist him? Spend time remembering the people who helped you become rooted and enthusiastic about your faith. How did they help you? Who is God calling you to be that person for now? How has God equipped you to serve him? Spend some time in prayer about your next assignment.

Saturday

ACTS 19

The focus for today is verses 8-21. What has been happening throughout Acts that signals to Paul to quit teaching in the synagogues? Compare verses 8-9 to verses 13-15. How do these two groups of Jews view Jesus differently? Read 17-20. What do you think the general response to Jesus was *before* verses 13-16? Why do those events change the minds of the people so much? Are there ways in which we try to use Jesus for our own purposes today? How do we know the difference between using Jesus for our own purposes and “real” faith? After reading this passage, is there something you need to “burn” in order to live for God?

Sunday

PSALM 136

This psalm is called a “call and response” prayer. What types of wonders are listed here? How are the acts in verse 10 and 17-20 signs of God's enduring love? Do you find the refrain tiresome, or are you even more aware of God's love after reading it? Does it remind you that God's enduring love is the basis of everything for which we give thanks? We have grateful hearts for our faithful God. Praise God!