

Recap of 11/28/21 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 13:13-25

1. In Acts 13 Paul takes over leadership of the missionary team replacing Barnabas as its leader.
 - “In nothing is the greatness of Barnabas more manifest than in his recognition of the superiority of Paul and acceptance of a secondary position for himself.” (Robert quoting Furneau)
 - “You don’t have to love change to be successful, but you need to be willing to accept it.” (Maxwell)
 - We must meet change (which will surely come) with confidence in God and with flexibility.
2. Possible reasons that John Mark deserts the missionary team are:
 - resentment over the change in leadership from Barnabas (his cousin) to Paul
 - disagreement over strategy (directly approaching gentiles)
 - inability to endure hardship of travel
 - possibly malaria struck him or Paul necessitating the change in travel
 - homesickness
3. Whatever his reasons, Paul considered it a desertion. Difficulties plague the Christian life and ministry. The key is to press forward, focused on Christ (Philippians 3:12-14), not quitting or turning back.
4. Paul’s sermon had three sections: an historical section (vv. 16-25) which traced the preparation for and anticipation of Messiah and the fulfillment in Jesus; a section on the rejection, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ (vv. 26-37); and an appeal (vv. 38-41) to respond in faith in Jesus.
5. “I have seen men and women who are normally the life of the party—able to hold their own and discuss practically anything---clam up and hide quietly in the corner when an opportunity to present the gospel came along. Maybe you’re like that. If so, let me ask you a question. Has hearing the gospel ever turned a person into a drunk or gotten him on drugs? Has the gospel turned good people bad? Has the gospel turned people from love to hate? The word gospel means good news. But the way we hesitate to share the message of the gospel would make a person think it was bad news. Wherever you live, work, or play, people need to hear the ‘good tidings of great joy.’ A Savior is born! The gospel of Christ is good news!” (LeRoy Eims)