

Paul's Sabbath Sermon in the Synagogue

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

A. Acts 13:13-52

1. The first of Paul's recorded sermons
2. An example of an effective sermon; when Paul entered a city, he either started a riot or a church or both
3. An example of how to create a sermon; his sermon structure is still used by preachers today when developing lessons

B. Preaching in a synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia

1. They left Paphos for Perga of Pamphylia
2. At Perga, John Mark leaves them and returns to Jerusalem
3. From Perga, they come to Antioch of Pisidia

I. PAUL'S SABBATH SERMON IN THE SYNAGOGUE

A. They visited the synagogue and were invited to address the people

1. There are ignorant men today who would criticize him for it
2. Where were the people who needed the gospel?
3. Ignorant men think that all they have to do is build a meeting house, put a Church of Christ sign on it, and sit back waiting for sinners to come in and ask to be baptized
4. Baptist class in Warren, OH - baptized 4; visited a meeting in Struthers - two families at Austintown came of that; visited small institutional church in WV - the preacher left liberalism
5. Paul did not go to the synagogue for the purpose of fellowship, but to teach them

B. Paul's sermon

1. Reviews Israel's history from the Exodus to the time of David
2. Proclaims Jesus as the seed of David, introduced by John the Baptist
3. Preaches the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
4. Offers evidence for resurrection: eyewitnesses & Messianic prophecies
5. Announces forgiveness and justification available through Jesus Christ, not the law
6. He warns them not to despise the wonderful work of God

C. Response and results

1. The Gentiles beg that he will preach the same to them next Sabbath
2. Many Jews and devout proselytes follow Paul and Barnabas, who persuade them to continue in the grace of God

D. The second Sabbath in Antioch

1. Nearly the whole city gathers to hear the Word of God
2. The Jews become envious, and begin contradicting Paul
3. Paul and Barnabas boldly rebuke the Jews for rejecting the Word, and turn to the Gentiles as commanded by the Lord
4. The Gentiles rejoice, many believe, and the Word of the Lord is spread throughout the region

5. It is becoming a familiar story

II. PAUL'S MODEL SERMON

- A. This sermon is a persuasive address, meaning it is designed to change behavior, not merely belief. According to the classic Greek rhetorical handbooks, such an address should contain five major movements. Paul follows them precisely.
1. A preface which exhorts the audience to give him attention (v. 16).
 2. A narration which recounts significant historical events (vv. 17-25).
 3. A proposition which is to be proven and acted upon (v. 26).
 4. Arguments proving the proposition (vv. 27-37). According to Quintillion there were four major kinds of arguments to be used to make a case. Paul here uses all four:
 - a. Things perceived by the senses (vv. 30-31).
 - b. Things established by law or written authority (vv. 27, 29, 33-35).
 - c. Things about which there is general agreement (i.e. providence and power of God), (vv. 32-33, 37).
 - d. Things pertaining to the issue that would be admitted by all parties (vv. 28-29, 36).
 5. A final exhortation calling for action (vv. 38-41).

Conclusion:

- A. These sermon structures work because they are designed to reach the human mind. The gospel works because God designed it to reach the human soul