

The News about Jesus

The news about Jesus is simple and yet profound. It is a message about forgiveness. It is a message about life. It is also a message to which people have always responded in very different ways. Some people hear the news about Jesus and respond with joy and faith. Others hear and respond with hostility and unbelief. This is exactly what Paul and his companions found as they took the news about Jesus to Pisidian Antioch.

Opening Discussion: What was the best bit of news you heard this week?

Read Acts 13:13-52

1. Where do Paul and his companions go and what do they do when they get there?
2. Why do you think Paul recounts the history of Israel like he does?
3. What promise and warning does Paul proclaim (vv. 38-41)?
4. What are the various responses to the news about Jesus that Paul proclaims?
5. The warning with which Paul ends his sermon (vv. 40-41), comes from Habakkuk 1:5. The Jews to whom Paul was speaking would have known this. They also would have known the full context of Habakkuk 1:5. Read Habakkuk 1:4-6. How does this add to our understanding of how Paul's hearer would have heard this warning?

6. What do you think Luke wants us to understand from this passage?

Steve said:

. . . If you are already a follower of Christ, there came a time in your life when *you become convinced in your heart that the news about Jesus is **good news**; you believed and began to experience **life***. It could be that you came to Christ very decisively when someone shared the gospel with you; some people know the exact moment and place where they first believed. Or perhaps you aren't exactly sure when you came to Christ, but you know that you believe and have life. Don't feel bad if you don't know the exact moment you first believed; what matters is that you are *presently* a believer. My question for you is this: Does the news about Jesus (the gospel) still amaze you and give you joy (as it did those who believed in Antioch)? Or is it "old news"? Has it become commonplace and blah, blah, blah?

7. If you are a believer, does the news about Jesus still amaze you and give you joy?

8. Why do you think the news about Jesus does become commonplace for us at times? What can we do to stay in a posture of being amazed by the news about Jesus?

9. What is significant about the final verse in the chapter (v. 52)?