



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Mission Adventure Series, Lesson 53

Lesson Title: Paul Goes to the Gentiles

Take Home Point: God wants to reach people of all nations – we can help.

Warm-Up:

One of the things I enjoyed about having children was their avid interest and willingness to help. When they were little, it didn't matter what job I was doing or what errand I might have to run – they were right there ready to help. I appreciated their attitude, even though sometimes I was involved in a task that made it hard for them to assist in a useful way. On the other hand, sometimes I put their willingness to good use if they could actually help. We enjoyed working together; the sense of accomplishment was great for them and for me. I found that doing some job together was a growing time – they learned how to do a few things, and I got to enjoy their company and impart a bit of knowledge to help them mature. Maybe that's how it is with our helping God – he just enjoys our company and teaches us a few things at the same time.

Read: Acts 13:44 – 14:28; Romans 10:12-13

Observation (What happened?):

How did the Gentiles in various cities respond to Paul's preaching of the gospel?

What role did the Jews of the region play in the Gentile's response?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think Paul had to go to the Jews first with the message of the gospel?

Given that they rejected the gospel, why do you think the Jews incited the Gentiles against Paul and his message?

Insight:

It seems amazing, does it not, that the Jews responded the way they did? I mean, if they believed they were superior to the Gentiles, what difference did it make that the Gentiles appreciated Paul's message? But that reflects what has always been the way of Satan. He is not content with his own losses, he wants to make sure as many human beings as possible also lose their relationship with God, their eternal life, their very souls. The Jews in this account were very much afraid that the Gentiles would get something and be happy with it. They did not believe the Gentiles should get anything or be happy in any way; that is how much the Jews despised the Gentiles. But that attitude runs counter to the ways of Jesus, and we need to be careful about how we live out the Good News of Jesus Christ. Remember what Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 28 and Acts 1 – we are to make disciples of all men all over the world. Christians can have no room for an attitude of superiority for we have been saved by grace. God's grace. And that is good news God wants us to share with others.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are you doing to reach people of all nations? What is your church doing?

Who are the "Gentiles" of today that we need to be reaching with the Good News?

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