

## Approaching God

Read this portion of Psalm 25 and respond to God with an opening prayer

*In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause. Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.*

(Psalm 25:1-5)

## Acts 13:13-41

### Passage Introduction:

Once Paul and Barnabas make it to Pisidian Antioch, a city in the region of Galatia, they enter the synagogue and listen to the reading of the Scriptures (13:15). Then, the official asks if Paul has any word or exhortation for the present congregation. As Paul begins his sermon, he stands up and motions with his hand (v 16). Peter, in just the previous chapter, also motioned with his hand before he spoke. Luke includes these details in order to parallel Peter and Paul as the two foundational apostolic preachers of the first-century church.

## Bible Reading, Study & Meditation

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

Use the space in the margin to jot down notes, or themes/ideas that stand out as important.

**Acts 13:13-41** - **13** From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem. **14** From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. **15** After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak." **16** Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said:

"Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! **17** The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; **18** for about forty years he endured their conduct in the wilderness; **19** and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. **20** All this took about 450 years. "After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. **21** Then the people asked for a

Notes:

king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. **22** After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.' **23** "From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. **24** Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. **25** As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

**26** "Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. **27** The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. **28** Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. **29** When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. **30** But God raised him from the dead, **31** and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people. **32** "We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors **33** he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: " 'You are my son; today I have become your father.' **34** God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said, " 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.' **35** So it is also stated elsewhere: " 'You will not let your holy one see decay.'

**36** "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. **37** But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay. **38** "Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. **39** Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses. **40** Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: **41** " 'Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.' "

## The First Missionary Journey of Paul

c. A.D. 46–47

Barnabas and Paul first visited Barnabas's home region of Cyprus before sailing to the southern region of Asia Minor. When they reached Perga in Pamphylia, John Mark left the group and returned to Jerusalem. Making their way to Antioch (in Pisidia), Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, Paul and Barnabas were driven out of each city by jealous Jewish religious leaders. Later they returned by the same route, strengthening the new churches as they went. From Attalia they set sail for their home in Antioch of Syria.



### Questions for Reflection & Meditation

- What does this passage today show me about God for which I can thank or praise him?
- What does this passage tell me about people, myself, my neighbor, or perhaps humanity in general?
- How does Paul stress with these Jews the continuity of the story of Israel with the coming of Jesus? (16-25)

### Key Takeaway:

What truth do I most need to remember from today's passage? How would this truth change my life if I took it seriously? If this truth were fully alive and effective in your inward being? Why might God be bringing this truth to your attention today?

### Close in Prayer:

1. **Rejoice:** - What did God show me today that I can **rejoice in**?
2. **Repent:** - What did God reveal that I need to confess or **repent of**?
3. **Requests:** - What prayer **requests** do I have as a result of my time with God today?