



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Acts 13 – 26 Sermon Series

Supports Session 1: Sent

Sermon Title: “What is God Saying?” (Ps. 19:1-9; Acts 13:1-3)

Connection to Session 1

God has called all Christians to share the good news, relying on the Holy Spirit as they do. God faithfully speaks to every believer. Our job is to listen.

Introduction/Opening

How often have you been on a call from your cell and it got dropped? Sometimes when in a sparsely populated area or even in the middle of a large body of water, there's no cell reception. This means no text messages, no voice communication, and certainly, no internet. Unfortunately, this can describe the interaction many people have with God. They act as if there is no communication with Him at all.

The problem is not the sender. The problem is the receiver. God speaks clearly and fully through his Word and through His Spirit. Each believer needs to be sure to listen to Him and respond in a way that honors His name.

But how does God speak? Today we will look at the ways God speaks, and more importantly, how we are to respond.

Outline

1. God speaks (Ps. 19:1-9)

- a. The method: Let's be clear. God speaks through His world and His Word.
- b. Psalm 19 teaches us of two ways God speaks. The first way He speaks is through general revelation, seen often through God's creation.
 - i. In Psalm 19:1-6, David the psalmist made it very clear that the heavens declare God's glory.
 - ii. Verse one affirms that the skies proclaim “the work of his hands.”
 - iii. Creation points to the creator God, who made all things by His mighty power.
- c. God also reveals Himself to us through special revelation found in His Word.
 - i. “The instruction of the LORD is perfect, renewing one's life,” David wrote in verse 7, inspired by the spirit.
 - ii. He later wrote in verse 9, “the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever.”
- d. The Bible is God's revelation of Jesus Christ to us.
 - i. God's revelation points to Jesus.
 1. Jesus said in Matthew 5:17, “Don't think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.”

2. Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:16 that “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness.”
- e. God speaks, and He does so through His Word.

2. We Must Listen (Acts 13:1-3)

- a. Know the Word.
 - i. In Acts 13, the believers were worshipping the Lord.
 - ii. Prophets and teachers were present, men who knew and taught the Scriptures.
 - iii. These men were worshipping the Lord and fasting, seeking God's direction to advance the gospel.
- b. Know the Spirit.
 - i. In their time of prayer and fasting, these believers were open to the Spirit.
 - ii. The Spirit appointed Barnabas and Saul (later called Paul).
 - iii. The church leaders listened and took action.
- c. Take Action
 - i. Years ago, a television commercial advertised the benefits of the brokerage company, EF Hutton. The slogan contained the words that many people in the United States easily remember: “When EF Hutton speaks, people listen.”
 - ii. When God speaks, we’re to listen and act on it. Partial obedience is full disobedience.
 - iii. The believers in Acts 13 demonstrate this kind of obedience. They acted on God’s leading concerning the gospel.
 1. They finished fasting, then they prayed and laid hands on Barnabas and Saul.
 2. The church at Antioch sent Barnabas and Saul off to the mission field.
 - iv. They took action to advance the gospel, no matter what.
 - v. And no matter what, we must do likewise.

Conclusion

There’s no doubt that God is speaking. The question that needs to be asked is, “Are you listening?” When we read the Bible, God reveals to us things about ourselves and how we can obey Him in our lives. Once you're in his Word, then the only thing you can do is to listen and obey. It may be to grow closer to Him as He provides you with more opportunities to serve others. It may be that God wants you to serve him on mission in your local community. It may be to send you across the world, like he did with Saul and Barnabas. No matter what, God wants you to follow Him as He calls you to reach and teach others as you make disciples.

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