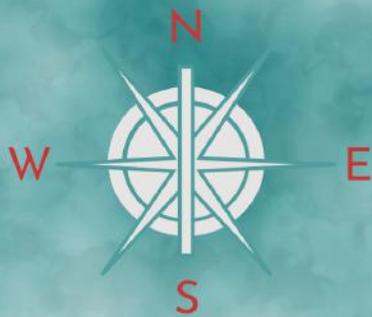


ACTS

THE GREAT COMMISSION IN
ACTION



PART 2

The Great Commission in Action

Acts

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Lesson 14

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

10. Are we called to do the same?

11. Who does God want you to share the gospel with?

12. What does Phillip's interaction with the Ethiopian eunuch teach us about how to share the gospel?

13. God not only blesses us by giving us the Scriptures, but also gives us teachers who help us understand it. Who are these teachers in your life? How can you be constantly seeking to learn more about God through the Bible?

Living Out Our Faith

14. Are you actively looking for ways to share the gospel and people to share the gospel with?
How can you be more intentional in sharing the gospel?

15. How can you become a better missionary anywhere you are?

Prayer

Take time to think about the areas of your life where “your heart is not right before God.” Silently pray and repent of your sin. Ask for strength to turn away from the sin. Ask that God would make you hate sin as much as he does. Pray with one another that God would continue to wash his people clean and give the strength to run from sin.

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 9:1-19a

Lesson 15

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

How has another believer impacted your life?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Acts 9:1-19a.

1. Who was Saul? Read these passages where Saul is mentioned:

Acts 7:58

Acts 8:1-3

2. What are some characteristics of Saul?

Here's further information on Saul from *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Acts* (p.133):

"This passage begins with Saul's persecuting the church intensely. He isn't content with merely persecuting believers in Jerusalem; his campaign extends to Damascus. Only the spilling of more blood will satisfy his obsessive hatred of Christians. He wants to liquidate every vestige of Christianity. The arrest warrants he receives from the high priest, authorizing him to arrest believers, fill him with the hope that others will soon face a fate similar to Stephen's."

3. What does it mean when Jesus says to Saul, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

4. Why was Ananias hesitant about going to Saul?

5. What does the action of going to Saul tell us about Ananias?

6. Who do you think Ananias feared more, God or man?

7. How does Ananias first greet Saul (verse 17)?

8. What is the significance of Ananias calling Saul "Brother Saul"?

9. What did Saul do after he was filled with the Holy Spirit and the scales fell from his eyes?

10. What hope does this story give us?

Living Out Our Faith

11. Do you ever doubt the power of the Holy Spirit? Do your actions reflect relying on the Spirit?

12. How have you seen Christ transform your life? How have you seen Christ transform the lives of others?

Prayer

As seen in Saul's conversion, God's grace is transformative. Read about God's transformative grace (written by Paul) and take time to thank him for his mercy. Pray that those who don't know the Lord would witness God's grace and be saved:

Romans 1:1-5

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

Galatians 1:11-24

Phillippians 3:4-11

1 Timothy 1:12-17

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 9:19-31

Lesson 16

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

Has there been a time in your life where you felt farthest from God? If you are comfortable, share this time with your group.

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Acts 9:19-31.

1. What was Saul's response to seeing the truth?

2. Did Saul hesitate in carrying out the command God gives all his people in Matthew 28:16-20?

Living Out Our Faith

13. In what areas of your life are you letting fear control you?

14. How can you have open arms to those who turn away from God?

15. Are you using your gifts to serve the Lord?

Prayer

If you have repented and accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit dwells within you. Rejoice! Read these verses about how the Holy Spirit transforms us and gives us strength. Take time to thank God and ask for dependence upon the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Romans 15:13

Romans 5:5

Acts 1:8

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 9:32-43

Lesson 17

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

Have you ever broken a bone? Or experienced a serious injury? Did someone help you during that time?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Acts 9:32-43.

1. Who is Peter? Read these verses below to learn more about him:

Luke 22:31-34

Luke 24:12

John 21:15-17

Acts 2:38

2. In verse 34, who does Peter say healed Aeneas?

9. In both miracles performed, is the healing the end of the story?

10. What do we learn about Peter?

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 10:1-33

Lesson 18

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

Think of someone you know who is a really good person—devout, religious, generous—but is not a Christian. How do you explain their “goodness”?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Acts 10 and 11 mark one of the turning points in the book of Acts. In these chapters, we see the gospel being taken to the Gentiles. Luke approaches this story from two different perspectives. First, in Acts 10:1-33, Luke zooms in on two men whose lives were radically changed by the gospel. Then, in Acts 10:34-11, he zooms out and shows us the big picture of God’s plan for salvation of people from all nations.

Over the next three weeks, we will dive into this narrative, approaching it from different perspectives. In the end, we hope to gain a greater understanding of who the gospel is for and what it means to belong to the family of God.

Read Acts 10:1-33.

1. Luke tells us a lot about Cornelius in Acts 10:1-8, 22, 31. Make a list of what you learn about his position, his standing in the community, and his character:

Who is Cornelius?

Position and standing in the community:

Character:

In verse 2, Cornelius is described as a devout *man who feared God*. He is also referred to as a *God-fearer* in verse 22. A God-fearer was a Gentile who followed the Jewish religion, having reverence for the God of Israel, but was not a convert. It's important to note that although Cornelius was devout, upright, and God-fearing, he was not saved.

2. One day during Cornelius's afternoon prayer time, something unusual happened. Describe what happened and what the angel told Cornelius to do.

3. In Acts 10:4, the angel tells Cornelius that his *prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God*. What do you think that the angel means by this? Note: "memorial" is connected to OT sacrifices. The priests would burn part of the grain offering as a memorial which offered a pleasing aroma to the Lord (see Leviticus 2:2).

4. Was God pleased with Cornelius's offering? Why or why not? What type of offering does God desire? Read Jeremiah 6:20 and Psalm 51:17 to help form your answer.

5. What does God's response to Cornelius's prayers and alms tell you about Cornelius's heart?

6. How did Cornelius respond to the angel's command to send men to Joppa to find Peter?

7. While Cornelius's men were on their way to Joppa, Peter was up on his housetop praying, but he was a bit distracted by hunger. *Are you ever distracted when you pray?*

8. While he was waiting for his food, he fell into a trance and saw a vision. What did he see in this divine vision? What was the main message of this vision (see verse 15)?

9. How many times did Peter need to see and hear this vision before it was taken away?

10. Acts 10:17 says that Peter was _____ as to what the vision he had seen might mean. Did he understand the message yet?

11. The Spirit prompted Peter to respond without hesitation to the three men who were at his door. Why did Peter need this nudge from the Holy Spirit? What obstacles may have prevented him from listening to the men and responding favorably to their request?

12. How did Peter respond (see verse 23)?

13. Did Cornelius have any doubt that Peter would come? How do you know?

14. What walls does Peter's vision break down?

15. How does Cornelius show hospitality to Peter? What does he invite Peter to do?

Living Out Our Faith

16. What walls have you built that put barriers between you and others that prevent you from sharing Jesus with others. Repent and ask God for the desire and strength to knock down these walls, believing that even those who are the furthest out will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus.

17. Who is the Spirit prompting you to welcome into your home? Who in your life needs to hear about the saving grace of Jesus? Make a plan to reach out and pray that your friend, neighbor, co-worker, family member will hear and believe the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Dear God,

It's so easy for me to want to look good before myself, others and you. Justifying my thoughts, words, and actions is how I cover my shame and guilt. This self-justification hinders me from seeing, admitting, and turning from my sin. Why do I try so hard to deceive?

Holy Spirit, help me see my sin clearly. When I cover shame and guilt by defending myself, making excuses, minimizing my sin, gossiping, or feeling superior to someone else, stop me. Help me repent of this sin of self-justification. Help my unbelief.

The beauty of the gospel is that by faith in Christ, I am justified. I am forgiven. I am declared righteous. Your forgiveness of my sin does not depend on my good works. They are based on Christ's dying on the cross for my sin and on his being raised for my righteousness. This means that I can stop striving to look good before myself, others, and you, God. Forgive my unbelief, Lord, and help me believe.

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 10:34-48

Lesson 19

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

Share about a time when you encountered someone of a different culture. Was it easy or difficult to connect?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

God gave Peter and Cornelius visions in Acts 10:1-20 to prepare them for their encounter in Acts 10:21-33. Cornelius was eager to learn more about Peter's faith. And Peter's vision gave him an understanding of how God viewed the Gentiles. Barriers and obstacles were broken down to make a way for the gospel to be proclaimed throughout the world.

Read Acts 10:34-48.

1. In Acts 10:33, Cornelius thanked Peter for coming and told him that they were ready to hear what had been commanded by the Lord.

Record what Peter said in each of the following verses:

Vs 34

Vs 35

Vs 36

Vs 37

Vs 38

Vs 39

Vs 40

Vs 41

Vs 42

Vs 43

12. Skim Acts 10 again, taking time to notice any references to hospitality. What can we learn about gospel hospitality from Cornelius and Peter?

Living Out Our Faith

13. How often do you welcome outsiders into your home? Perhaps this is an area of your life where you might grow. Pray for opportunities and a desire to welcome others into your home.

14. Do you struggle with the sin of partiality? Ask the Spirit to give you eyes to see your sin and a heart that is ready and willing to repent.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, it's really not all that complicated. All of history—every millennium, century, year and nano-second is determined by your outrageously generous commitment to redeem—to “harvest” your beloved Bride from every nation, tribe, people and language. You've done everything necessary to guarantee this magnificent nuptial story will end perfectly.

You bought us with your life and death. You love us with more passion and delight than we can possibly imagine. You've secured our safe arrival in the new heaven and new earth. There's no chance the wedding feast of the Lamb will not take place. Yet, even as you've determined the glorious end of all things, so you've appointed the means to that end. We're not just to be the Bride in waiting, but workers in the harvest—the plentiful, ripe harvest.

As the church—as your greatly loved Bride, we're not supposed to be hanging out in the spa reading glamour magazines and getting our nails done. We're supposed to be getting dirt under our nails, as we do the hard and heart work of evangelism and missions. You send us out like lambs among wolves. It's a costly, messy, much-resisted work you've given us to do. But it's worth all the sacrifice, tears and conflict . . . for you came to us as the Lamb *among* sinners and the Lamb *for* sinners. The price you paid “to have and to hold” your Bride makes our most agonizing work a kingdom joy.

Jesus, gracious Lord of the harvest, send us . . . send me into the harvest you've secured for yourself. What more could we possibly want for our church family? What other story would we choose for the rest of our days in this world, than to be the means by which you gather your Bride from the nations and prepare her for a future beyond our wildest dreams? Forgive us . . . focus us . . . free us . . . so very Amen, we pray, in your loving and triumphant name.

(By Scotty Smith; the Gospel Coalition Blog, October 16, 2010)

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 11

Lesson 20

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

Have you ever been challenged to defend a decision you made? How did you feel? What was the result?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Acts 11.

1. When something out of the ordinary occurs, it doesn't take long for the word to spread. In Acts 11:1, we learn that the believers in Judea heard about what happened in Caesarea. How did they respond to the news?

6. As he tells the story to his accusers, he helps them make an important connection. Read Acts 11:15-16 and Acts 1:5. What does he want his listeners to understand?

7. Describe the changes that you observe, both in Peter and the circumcision party, as they begin to understand God's plan for salvation.

8. All of the law was fulfilled in Christ; and now because of Christ, those on the outside can be brought near. Gentiles can now belong to the family of God; not because it no longer matters that they are holy, but because Christ can make them holy. Peter and the other Jewish believers saw the beauty of God's transforming grace: forgiveness, inclusion, and new life for anyone who repents and believes.

What is necessary for someone to become a member of the family of God?

9. What impact did Stephen's persecution have on the early church (see 11:19)?

Remember what Jesus said to the disciples in Acts 1:8: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Do you see how this spread of the gospel took shape? The gospel went out from Judea and was spread in the outlying regions.

10. In Acts 11:19-21, Luke tells us that the gospel was spreading and both Jews and Gentiles were coming to faith. *And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.* The believers in Jerusalem heard what was happening and they sent some help. Why? Who did they send? What type of man was he? What do these verses tell us about him?
11. In verse 23, we read that Barnabas was glad. Why was he glad?
12. Are you glad when you see the grace of God?
13. In verses 21 and 24, we read that a great many people believed. How do you think the church viewed these new believers? Did they embrace them? Did they welcome them? How do we look at new people—as problems or evidence of God’s grace?
14. What role did Barnabas play in the lives of the new believers in Antioch? Did he do it alone?
15. How long did Barnabas and Paul stay in Antioch and what did they do while they were there?
16. How did the church respond when they heard that people were in need (see verses 27-30)?

17. How do you respond when people are in need?

Living Out Our Faith

18. Look back at question 13. Do you embrace new believers or people new to our church as problems or evidence of God's grace? In what ways might the Spirit be prompting you to change?

19. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch for a year encouraging and teaching the believers there. These new believers needed to be discipled. What does discipleship look like in your life? Who is discipling you? Who are you discipling?

Prayer

Take some time to pray for the people in your life who don't yet know Jesus. Ask God to show you opportunities to engage them with the gospel.

Prayerfully consider what discipleship looks like in your life today. How might the Spirit be prompting you to become more actively engaged in being discipled or discipling others?

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 12:1-5

Lesson 21

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

What time of day do you find the most peaceful? Why?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Acts 12:1-5.

1. Who was Herod (Herod Agrippa 1)?
2. What do we learn about Herod from this passage?
3. Who is James? Read Mark 3:17.

10. Read and reflect on the power of prayer. What do you learn about prayer from these verses?

Matthew 21:22

Mark 9:29

John 14:13-14

Acts 9:40

Ephesians 6:18

James 1:5

James 5:16

Phillippians 4:6-7

Living Out Our Faith

11. How have you seen the power of prayer work in your own life? In the lives of those around you?

12. What is your first response when you or someone you know faces a trial?

Prayer

Read John 16:33. What are some verses and passages in Scripture that give you hope and peace when you face suffering? Share these verses and thank the Lord.

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 12:6-19

Lesson 22

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

When you are in a stressful situation, how do you usually react/respond?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Acts 12:6-19.

1. What was Peter doing when the angel appeared to him?
2. What does this tell us about how Peter was feeling while imprisoned?
3. Did Peter do anything to help himself escape?

When preaching about this passage, Charles Spurgeon emphasizes the power of prayer:

"As soon as Herod put Peter into prison the church began to pray. Herod took care that the guards should be sufficient in numbers to keep good watch over his victim, but the saints of God set their watches too. As in times of war, when two armies lie near each other they both set their sentries, so in this case Herod had his sentries of the night keep watch, and the church had its pickets too. Prayer was made of the church without ceasing: as soon as one little company were compelled to separate to go to their daily labour, they were relieved by another company, and when some were forced to take rest in sleep, others were ready to take up the blessed work of supplication. Thus both sides were on the alert, and the guard were changed both by day and night. It was not hard to foresee which side would win the victory, for truly unless the Lord keep the city, the watchmen waketh but in vain; and when, instead of helping to keep the castle, God sends angels to open doors and gates, then we may be sure that the watchmen will waketh in vain, or fall into a dead slumber. Continually, therefore, the people of God pleaded at his mercy-seat; relays of petitioners appeared before the throne. Some mercies are not given except in answer to importunate prayer. These are blessings which, like ripe fruit, drop into your hand the moment you touch the bough; but there are others which require you to shake the tree again and again, until you make it rock with the vehemence of your exercise, for then only will the fruit fall down. My brethren, we must cultivate importunity in prayer. While the sun is shining and when the sun has gone down, still should prayer be kept up and fed with fresh fuel, so that it burns fiercely, and flames on high like a beacon fire blazing toward heaven." (*Acts Reformed Expository Commentary*, p. 334)

9. From this, what do we learn about prayer?

10. Are you using prayer actively as a weapon in the war against evil?

Living Out Our Faith

11. God is sovereign. There is nothing he cannot do. Do your actions reflect this truth?

12. Are you trusting in God's promises? Or are you serving your idols?

Prayer

Think of ways to implement more times of prayer in your week. Pray through this prayer by Beth Ann Baus:

Father God, we praise you for your love and faithfulness towards your children. We praise you for being a perfect, holy, trustworthy God that is bigger than all the evil we experience here on earth. We ask that you give us eyes to see when evil is before us, hearts to hate evil and the desire to flee from its presence. We ask that you would not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil and draw us closer to yourself. We ask for the long-expected Jesus to come quickly and make all things new. We ask these things in His precious name. Amen.

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 12:20-25

Lesson 23

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

What is the best compliment you have received recently?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

Read Acts 12:20-25.

1. What was the cause of Herod's death?
2. Who was Herod giving the glory to?

8. In this story, we see God is a God of justice. Does this give you hope?

9. Does God's justice inspire you to share the gospel?

"God is holy. And we must reckon with the reality of his wrath. There comes a time when those who are not Christians will face it. The book of Hebrews warns concerning those who have spurned the Lord Jesus: 'For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgement, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries' (Heb. 10:26-27)." (*Acts Reformed Expository Commentary*, p. 346)

10. Read Psalm 124. Is this a warning for God's enemies? Or hope for his children? Or both?

11. Read Acts 9:32-43. In both this passage and Acts 12:20-25, we see people coming to know Christ.

a. How are these passages different?

b. What does this tell us about God?

Living Out Our Faith

12. Do you seek recognition and righteousness?

13. Where do you see pride controlling your actions?

14. How are you seeking humility? Are you asking God to humble you?

Prayer

Read through the words of the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" and take time to reflect and pray through this song:

*1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper he, amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.*

*2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.*

*3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.*

*4 That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!*

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 13:1-12

Lesson 24

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

Have you or someone you know gone on a mission trip? Share something about that experience.

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

The word of God was increasing and multiplying. In the midst of opposition and persecution, God's people continued to boldly proclaim the good news of the gospel. The transforming power of the gospel affected every area of their lives, moving them to intentionally "go out" and proclaim the gospel to those who needed to hear it. As we turn to Acts 13, we'll learn about the first instance of a planned overseas mission as the church at Antioch (capital city of Gentile lands in the Roman Province of Syria) sends out the first missionaries.

Read Acts 13:1-12

1. List the names of the people mentioned in Acts 13:1. Use a study Bible or commentary to find out a little more about each man. Where did they come from? What was their social standing? What was their role in the church?

7. How did the church respond?

8. Earlier we said that this is the first instance of a planned overseas mission where the first missionaries were sent by the Holy Spirit to a foreign country. Re-read verses 2-4 and develop a definition for "missionary." In other words, *what (or who) is a missionary?*

9. Who did the Holy Spirit tell the church at Antioch to set apart? Why is it significant that these were the men chosen and how does that inform or change your view of missionaries?

This church was required to make a sacrifice. The Holy Spirit asked them to give their best, the people who were doing amazing ministry in their city, the leaders of their church. And the church listened and obeyed. Why were they willing to do this? Maybe they understood the sacrifice that God the Father made when he sent his beloved son, Jesus, to this earth. The only way to rescue us from the grip of sin and death was for God to send his perfect son, Jesus, to save us.

Jesus said to them, Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, even so I am sending you.
(John 20:21)

The Antioch Christians knew that they had a message that the world needed to hear and they willingly sent their best to proclaim this message.

10. Where did Paul and Barnabas go? What did they do there (see verses 4-5)?

11. Can you think of reasons why Paul and Barnabas went to the synagogues?

12. Who was with them and what was his job?

13. Describe what happened in verses 6-12.

14. How did Paul rebuke Elymas, the magician?

15. Did Paul have any idea how these two men might respond to what he said? What does this story teach you about speaking truth in the midst of opposition?

16. What does this chapter teach us about the power of the gospel? (More than one possible answer.)

Living Out Our Faith

17. How can diversity in leadership strengthen the church? How can it attract unbelievers? What does it communicate about the values of the church?

18. One of the reasons that Paul and Barnabas went to the synagogues was because it was an open door for Paul. He was respected because of his training and education, so he had a way in. Where is your open door? Where is the most natural place for you to share Jesus?

- A conversation with your neighbor?
- An early morning or lunch Bible Study at your workplace?
- Social media?
- Inviting friends and neighbors into your home?
- Asking your servers at restaurants how you can pray for them?
- Sending encouraging texts?

19. What does this chapter teach us about missions?

Prayer

Pray that God will strengthen, encourage, and equip your missionary friends as they proclaim the good news of the gospel to a world who needs Jesus.

Beautiful Feet

Having beautiful feet is being a witness and soul winner to spread the good news of the gospel to every lost sinner

Having beautiful feet is going where sent
Following our savior's command without relent

Having beautiful feet is obeying the great commission

Being faithful to the savior's calling and being on a mission

Having beautiful feet is sharing the gospel with those who've never heard
Explaining the way of salvation in God's Holy Word

Having beautiful feet is proclaiming the good news to all who will hear
Remembering Jesus died for all and to Him every soul is dear

Having beautiful feet is showing the ungodly that Jesus died for them
And they can be forgiven and receive eternal life when they trust in Him

Oh how beautiful are the feet of those who witness for God's glory
The faithful servants whose purpose is to tell the gospel story

Dear Jesus, please give me beautiful feet
Help me to care about souls and not be asleep

Cindy Wyatt

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 13:13-52

Lesson 25

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

How do you respond when someone gives you an answer you do not want to hear?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

In this week's lesson, take note of where Paul and his fellow missionaries went. They left Paphos on the island of Cyprus and sailed to Perga, in Asia Minor (present day Turkey) and from there went inland to Pisidia, Antioch (not the Antioch in Syria). This journey took them across a mountain range and through barren terrain inhabited by bandits. We also learn that John Mark leaves the group and heads back to Jerusalem. Luke does not spell out how physically challenging this journey was, or the relational conflict that may have existed, but it is important to know that Paul and Barnabas faced great challenges as they sought to advance the gospel.

"In Acts 13, we see an example of grace-enabled endurance that must reside in the hearts of gospel-centered, Spirit-empowered, Christ-exalting missionaries." Merida, page 187.

Read Acts 13:13-52.

1. Look on a Bible map and trace the journey of the missionary team. Where were they headed?
2. In verse 13, we read that John Mark left the team. What impact do you think his departure had on the missionary team?
3. What did the rulers of the synagogue ask Paul and the missionary team in verse 15. Why?
4. Acts 13:16-41 is the first record of a sermon preached by the Apostle Paul. How does Paul address his audience and what does he tell them to do in verse 16?

To help us grasp the message of this sermon, let's break it into three main parts:

- Part 1: A summary of God's grace to Israel (vs 17-23)
- Part 2: A reminder of God's provision in Jesus Christ (vs 23-37)
- Part 3: A message of hope and a warning (vs 38-41)

Part 1: Acts 13:17-23

5. In Part 1, it's amazing how much Paul tells us in just five sentences. What aspects of Israel's history does Paul highlight?

6. The subject of his sentences in verses 17-23 is important to note. **Who** is choosing? And making? And giving?
7. What had God promised to David? (See Psalms 89:104 and 132:11.)
8. What does Paul say about this promise in Acts 13:23?
9. Why did Paul begin his sermon by summarizing God's provisions and promises?

In verse 23, Paul exalts Israel's promised Savior, Jesus, and he begins to tell how the coming of this promised Messiah is the culmination of Biblical history.

Part 2: Acts 13:23-37

10. Looking at Part 2 of Paul's sermon, how does Paul address his listeners? What might we assume about who they were and what Paul's words would mean to them?
11. Were the people ready for the message of salvation that God sent? Did they believe that Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecy they knew so well? How does Acts 13:27-28 inform your answer?
12. Verse 30 begins with the important phrase, **But God**. In what ways is God's might, power, and sovereignty manifested in verses 30-37?
13. What did verse 30 confirm and prove true?

14. Paul helps his listeners connect familiar OT prophecy to the coming of Jesus by citing Psalm 2:7, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you." Read Psalm 2 and draw parallels between the psalmist's context and Paul's context. Who holds the ultimate wisdom, power, and authority?

The beauty of Paul's sermon is that he doesn't simply give his audience a list of facts or wow them with his knowledge and understanding of the scriptures. He makes this message personal as he exhorts them to consider the implications that the gospel has for each one of them. We see this shift in verse 38, with the transitional word, *therefore*. In essence, he says, *God raised Jesus from the dead; what does this mean for you? How will this good news impact your life?*

Part 3: Acts 13:38-41

15. Explain the good news that Paul describes in verses 38-40?
16. According to verse 41, how does he end his sermon? What is his warning?
17. How did various groups respond to Paul's sermon (see verses 42-45)?
18. Prophecy is fulfilled once again in Paul's response in verse 47.
- Read Isaiah 49:6 and Luke 2:29-32. What do you learn about God's ultimate plan in these verses?

Living Out Our Faith

19. There are two very different responses to Paul's bold and confident presentation of the gospel in Acts 13: a joy-filled belief that led to praise, worship, and proclamation **and** rejection that stirred up opposition and persecution. What can we learn from these responses?
- a. How did the missionary disciples respond to this opposition? What do they model for us?
 - b. Why is this helpful as we share the gospel with different types of people? What is helpful to remember?
20. Can you explain the gospel? Can you tell others how to find forgiveness through Christ?
- a. If yes, then go and tell!
 - b. If no, then learn from Paul. Grab your Bible, pray, and prepare to tell others the good news of Jesus. Then in the power of the Spirit, go and make the light of the gospel known in this dark world.

Prayer

A Prayer About Losing and Regaining the Gospel

Dear Jesus, how did it ever come to pass that there was even a need for the Reformation? What circumstances created the necessity for Martin Luther to nail his Ninety-Five Theses to the front door of the Castle Church at Wittenberg on October 31, 1517?

All my questions are rhetorical, Jesus, for I know quite well why we needed the Reformation and why we'll always need to be rediscovering and reaffirming the gospel of your sovereign and saving grace. I know this because I know my own proud and foolish heart.

Jesus, the gospel declares me to be a whole lot worse off than I can imagine, and certainly a whole lot worse than I want to acknowledge. Jesus, I never needed you merely to be a moral model for me to follow. I never needed a religious experience or rules to obey, I needed you to live a life of perfect obedience for me. I needed you to fulfill all the demands of the law for me. Thank you for doing this perfectly, Jesus.

And I needed you to take my place upon the cross, receiving the punishment I deserve for all the ways I fall short of God's glory—breaking, ignoring, and going way beyond his law, and worst of all, worshiping other gods. I needed you to exhaust God's just and holy wrath against me and my sin—lest I despair of my guilt or foolishly try to curry God's favor by anything of my own. Thank you for doing this perfectly, Jesus.

Jesus, I even needed you to give me this very faith I needed to receive this free and full justification. This you have done perfectly as well. I praise you. I worship you. I once again affirm today that my hope is built on nothing less, nothing more, and nothing other than your blood and your righteousness. On you, Lord Jesus, the solid and saving Rock, I stand. All other ground is sinking sand. Keep bringing me back to the gospel, Jesus; keep bringing me back to the gospel plus nothing. I pray in your most holy and gracious name, Amen.

From *Everyday Prayers: 365 Days to a Gospel-Centered Faith*, Scotty Smith, 2011, Baker Books

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 14

Lesson 26

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

What comes more naturally to you when you face challenges, fight or flight?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

As Acts 13 comes to an end, Paul and Barnabas are driven from Pisidia, Antioch, by those who were stirring up persecution against them. This opposition did not stop them from proclaiming the good news of Jesus. They shook the dust of the town off their feet to testify against them, left Antioch and went to Iconium.

Read Acts 14.

1. Where did Paul and Barnabas go when they arrived in Iconium? Why do you think they went there first?

7. Describe the reaction of Paul and Barnabas when they learned about what was happening. (See verses 11-14.)

8. Why did Paul and Barnabas react the way they did?

9. Compare Paul's sermon in Acts 13 with this shorter sermon recorded in Acts 14:15-17. What was different about these two sermons? Why did Paul take a different approach in Lystra? Had his message changed?

10. Did you notice that when Paul and Barnabas entered Lystra, they did not go to the synagogue? This is because there was no synagogue in Lystra, a predominantly Gentile town whose people held a polytheistic worldview. How does Paul challenge their worldview? What does he want them to know about the God of Israel?

11. What does he want them to understand about themselves? See Romans 1.

12. Did Paul's words convince them that he and Barnabas were not gods?

13. Remember the unbelieving Jews from Antioch and Iconium who were deeply offended by the message of grace that the apostles were preaching? In verse 19, we read that these very same people traveled to Lystra where they found Paul, stoned him, dragged him out of the city, and left him for dead. How does this severe persecution impact the spread of the gospel?

14. In Acts 14:21-23, it is evident that Paul and the disciples were compelled, by the power of the Spirit, to do more than evangelize. What else did they do?

15. At the end of this chapter in Acts, Paul and his group travel back to Antioch and share all that God had done. Imagine how much joy the believers felt when they heard how God had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. What do these verses tell us about churches who send missionaries out?

Living Out Our Faith

16. As we desire to share the gospel with those in our lives who need to hear it, it's helpful to find a way to connect with them. One way to connect is to remember that all humans have common desires and needs. Think about how the needs and desires listed below might be a connecting point as you seek to share the gospel. (From Tony Merida's *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Acts*, page 202):

- a hunger for love and community
- a search for freedom
- a need to be rid of guilt and shame
- a quest for meaning
- a longing for significance
- a thirst for satisfaction and joy
- an attraction to beauty in creation
- a love for creativity and innovation

Prayer

OH THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE

Bob Kaughlin

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me

Underneath me, all around me Is the current of Your love

Leading onward, leading homeward to Your glorious rest above

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus

Spread His praise from shore to shore

How He came to pay our ransom through the saving cross He bore
How He watches o'er His loved ones, those He died to make His own
How for them He's interceding, pleading now before the throne

Oh the deep, deep love, all I need and trust Is the deep, deep love of Jesus

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, far surpassing all the rest

It's an ocean full of blessing in the midst of every test

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus, mighty Savior, precious friend
You will bring us home to glory where Your love will never end

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 15:1-35

Lesson 27

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

Have you ever wanted to “get in” to a group, organization, club that required you to change something about who you were?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

As the message of the gospel begins to cross cultural, geographical, and religious borders, and more and more Gentiles come to saving faith, good questions arise. In Acts 15, two of these questions are raised:

- What is required to “get in” to the family of God?
- How must you live once you get in?

To answer these essential questions many of the main characters in the book of Acts meet together to address and answer these questions. This meeting is called the Jerusalem Council and it is recorded right in the center of the book of Acts. This moment is a pivotal moment in redemptive history. It’s a transition from the Old Covenant (law of Moses) to the New Covenant (Christ). Scripture is being fulfilled.

It's likely that Paul wrote the letter to the Galatians from Antioch in AD 49 just before the Jerusalem Council. His words to the Galatians emphasize that there is only one gospel. They help to broaden our understanding of the debate that is addressed by the church leaders in Jerusalem. Before you dig into Acts 15, read through the first two chapters of Galatians (below) and note how Paul answers the question, *What must a person do to be saved?* or *How is a person made right with God?*

Galatians 1 and 2 New Living Translation

1 This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority, but by Jesus Christ himself and by God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead. **2** All the brothers and sisters here join me in sending this letter to the churches of Galatia.

3 May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. **4** Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. **5** All glory to God forever and ever! Amen.

6 I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ. You are following a different way that pretends to be the Good News **7** but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ.

8 Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. **9** I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.

10 Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant.

11 Dear brothers and sisters, I want you to understand that the gospel message I preach is not based on mere human reasoning. **12** I received my message from no human source, and no one taught me. Instead, I received it by direct revelation from Jesus Christ.

13 You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God's church. I did my best to destroy it. **14** I was far ahead of my fellow Jews in my zeal for the traditions of my ancestors.

15 But even before I was born, God chose me and called me by his marvelous grace. Then it pleased him **16** to reveal his Son to me so that I would proclaim the Good News about Jesus to the Gentiles.

When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being. **17** Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus.

18 Then three years later I went to Jerusalem to get to know Peter, and I stayed with him for fifteen days. **19** The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord's brother. **20** I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie.

21 After that visit I went north into the provinces of Syria and Cilicia. **22** And still the churches in Christ that are in Judea didn't know me personally. **23** All they knew was that people were saying, "The one who used to persecute us is now preaching the very faith he tried to destroy!" **24** And they praised God because of me.

2 Then fourteen years later I went back to Jerusalem again, this time with Barnabas; and Titus came along, too. **2** I went there because God revealed to me that I should go. While I was there I met privately with those considered to be leaders of the church and shared with them the message I had been preaching to the Gentiles. I wanted to make sure that we were in agreement, for fear that all my efforts had been wasted and I was running the race for nothing. **3** And they supported me and did not even demand that my companion Titus be circumcised, though he was a Gentile.

4 Even that question came up only because of some so-called believers there—false ones, really—who were secretly brought in. They sneaked in to spy on us and take away the freedom we have in Christ Jesus. They wanted to enslave us and force us to follow their Jewish regulations. **5** But we refused to give in to them for a single moment. We wanted to preserve the truth of the gospel message for you.

6 And the leaders of the church had nothing to add to what I was preaching. (By the way, their reputation as great leaders made no difference to me, for God has no favorites.) **7** Instead, they saw that God had given me the responsibility of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as he had given Peter the responsibility of preaching to the Jews. **8** For the same God who worked through Peter as the apostle to the Jews also worked through me as the apostle to the Gentiles.

9 In fact, James, Peter, and John, who were known as pillars of the church, recognized the gift God had given me, and they accepted Barnabas and me as their co-workers. They encouraged us to keep preaching to the Gentiles, while they continued their work with the Jews. **10** Their only suggestion was that we keep on helping the poor, which I have always been eager to do.

11 But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. **12** When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision. **13** As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy.

14 When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?"

15 "You and I are Jews by birth, not 'sinners' like the Gentiles. **16** Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law."

17 But suppose we seek to be made right with God through faith in Christ and then we are found guilty because we have abandoned the law. Would that mean Christ has led us into sin? Absolutely not! **18** Rather, I am a sinner if I rebuild the old system of law I already tore down. **19** For when I tried to keep the law, it condemned me. So I died to the law—I stopped trying to meet all its requirements—so that I might live for

God. **20** My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. **21** I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

Read Acts 15:1-35

1. Describe the problem in Acts 15:1-5.
2. How big of a problem was it? What details does Luke include that highlight the magnitude of the problem?
3. Restate the question they were asking in your own words.

The men that came down from Judea were struggling with the idea that salvation is by grace alone. We have the same struggles today.

“But if we add anything to the gospel, we lose the gospel. Gospel math works like this: Jesus plus nothing equals everything. The work of Jesus Christ is totally sufficient. The gospel of the saving exclusivity of Jesus by the grace of Jesus will always be disputed because the default mode of the human heart is works-righteousness, not faith-based righteousness. But we can’t earn righteousness; we simply receive it by faith alone.” From Merida, pages 210-211.

4. In verse 6, what was done to address the problem? Who was present?

5. Simply put, the church leaders were debating whether or not the Gentiles needed to become Jews before they were Christians. Did a Gentile need to be circumcised before he was saved? Why would this question be cause for such debate? Think back to what we learned in Acts 10 and 11.

6. Peter is the first of the heavy hitters to address the council. Peter's vision and meeting with Cornelius happened 10 years before this. He is well qualified to speak to the issue at hand. As he speaks, he makes three main points. What are they?
 - a. Verse 7

 - b. Verse 8

 - c. Verse 9

7. What does he mean by "put God to the test" in verse 10? Some other verses that refer to putting God to the test are Deuteronomy 6:16; Psalm 78:18, 41, 56; and Psalm 106:14. Is putting God to the test a good thing?

8. Notice the wording of verse 11.

*But we believe that **we will be saved** through the grace of the Lord Jesus, **just as they have.***

What is Peter saying? Why might this shake up his listeners?

9. What other verses do you know that confirm and support Peter's position?

10. After Peter speaks, Paul and Barnabas speak. What point did they make?

11. Finally, James steps up to speak.

(Note: This is James the half-brother of Jesus. He was the leader of the church in Jerusalem and the head of the Jerusalem Council. James the brother of John was killed in Acts 11.)

In what way does James affirm what Peter, Paul, and Barnabas said?

12. In Acts 15:11-12, James establishes the doctrine of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, apart from works of the law. How does this answer the question, ***What is required to get into the family of God?***

13. Finally, in verses 19-20, James answers the question ***How must you live once you get in?*** Why does he name these four things?

14. How did the council respond to the teaching of Peter, Paul, Barnabas, and James in verses 22-29? What stands out to you about the letter they wrote.

15. Summarize what happened in verses 30-35.

Living Out Our Faith

16. In what ways are you living as if you believe a *Jesus plus* gospel? Try to find the source of your unbelief. Why is the saving grace of Jesus not enough? Repent and believe.

17. In what ways are you requiring others to live according to a *Jesus plus* gospel? Prayerfully ask God to show you this sin in your life and go to those you have treated wrongly and ask them to forgive you.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,

How was it possible for the church to lose the Gospel? That's a rhetorical question, for we're always in danger of forgetting the Gospel. We suffer from doxological-dementia. We're proud-performers and chronic under-believers—by nature allergic to grace.

For the Gospel declares us to be much worse off than we want to admit; and so much more loved than we ever hoped or imagined. We needed a substitute to trust, not a model to follow; the second Adam, not a second chance; a new heart, not a new start. What we could never do, you did perfectly for us. You fulfilled every demand of God's Law for us.

And we needed you to take our place upon the cross—receiving the judgment we deserve for all the ways we fail to love God with everything we have and are. Jesus, thank you for taking our shame, exhausting our guilt, and freeing us forever.

Today we gladly affirm that our hope is built on nothing less, nothing more, and nothing other than your blood and your righteousness. All other ground is sinking sand; all other hopes are empty nothings; all other attempts at salvation are vain, worthless, and peace-less.

Keep bringing us back to the Gospel of grace, Jesus. Keep bringing us back to the Gospel plus nothing for our salvation. Keep bringing us back to Gospel-sanity. Pour out your Spirit on me and my friends this weekend. So very Amen we pray, in your most holy and gracious name.

From The Gospel Coalition Blog, November 1, 2019. Scotty Smith: We're Always-in-Need-of-the-Gospel People

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 16

Lesson 28

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

What steps do you take when preparing to go on a trip?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

In Acts 15:36-41, as the result of a sharp disagreement about whether to take John Mark on the leg of their missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas decided to separate from each other. Barnabas and John Mark went to Cyprus. Paul and Silas went through Syria and Cilicia being commended by the brothers with the grace of the Lord to strengthen the churches. This conflict between Barnabas and Paul most certainly was painful for both, yet we see that in the midst of conflict, tension, and pain, the gospel goes forth.

Read Acts 16:1-10 to find out what happens after Paul and Barnabas separate.

1. Where does verse 1 tell us that Paul went? What do you remember about this town (see Acts 14:19-23)?

2. Paul and Silas gain another ministry partner when they meet Timothy. Who was he? List everything that Luke tells us about Timothy in these verses.

3. Paul and Timothy become very close. Read the following verses to get an idea of the depth of their relationship.
 - a. Romans 16:21

 - b. 1 Corinthians 4:17

 - c. Philippians 2: 22

 - d. 1 Timothy 1:2

 - e. 2 Timothy 1:2

4. Why did Timothy need to be circumcised? Did this contradict Paul's teaching and views in Galatians 2? Why or why not?

As you answer this, compare Titus, who was not circumcised (Galatians 2:1-6) and Timothy, who was circumcised (Acts 16: 3). Why was one circumcised and the other not?

5. Acts 16:4 gives us the purpose of their visits to the churches in the cities. What message were they delivering? (Re-read Acts 15:23-29.)

6. How were the churches impacted by these visits from Paul and Timothy?

7. As they continued on with their travel plans, they were stopped. Who prevented them from going into certain regions? Write down Luke's exact words in verses 6 and 7.

Verse 6

Verse 7

8. God closed the door for Paul and Timothy to speak the Word in Asia, Mysia, and Bithynia. But there was a door that was open for them to go to Macedonia to preach the gospel. How did Paul know that God had called them to go into Macedonia?

9. Can you think of a time in your life when God closed the door to one opportunity, but opened the door for another? How did you respond to these closed and open doors? What did God teach you through this?

10. Notice the pronoun "we" in verse 10. Who has joined the team?

11. Read Acts 16:11-15. Where did God lead Paul and his team? Why was it significant that they went there?

12. Write down everything the text tells us about Philippi. What other conclusions might you make about this city?

13. On the Sabbath day, where did they go and why?

14. Who was Lydia?

15. Did God open Lydia's heart to receive and believe what Paul said? How do you know?

16. What was Lydia's response to the gospel?

The Great Commission in Action

Acts 16:16-40

Lesson 29

Living Under the Word

Sermon Notes

Living With One Another

Opening Discussion:

What's the hardest question anyone has ever asked you?

Reflect on the sermon. What resonated with you? What questions do you have? What would you like to know more about?

As we come to the conclusion of Acts, Part 2, we encourage you to reflect on what you have learned. Take some time to make a list of all of the different types of people Luke mentions who responded to the gospel. As you great this list, notice and celebrate the diversity of those who belong to the body of Christ. Praise God for the transforming power of the gospel.

Read 16:16-40

1. What was the problem in verses 16-18?
2. Who was the slave girl in bondage to?
3. How did Paul respond to her?
4. Why were her owners so upset and how did they seek justice?

5. Why did the crowd react in such a violent way in verses 22-24?

6. After being shamed, beaten, mocked and thrown into a maximum security prison where they were shackled in the darkness, what were Paul and Silas doing?

7. Describe what happened in verse 26.

8. What impact did this event have on the jailor?

9. Why did he ask Paul and Silas the question, *What must I do to be saved?* Is this the first question you would have asked in this situation?

10. What evidence do you see that speaks to the transforming power of the gospel in the jailor's life?

11. How did Paul respond to the news that the police were releasing them from jail? Why did he respond this way?

12. Who was actually guilty of breaking the laws of the state in this account?

13.. Where did Paul and Silas go and what did they do when they were released from prison?

Living Out Our Faith

14. Christianity was a threat to Roman culture, being viewed as subversive and counter to their values. In what ways is Christianity a threat to our culture today?

15. Paul and Silas's response to suffering compelled the jailor to ask about salvation. Are you experiencing suffering and trials right now? How might you use this to tell those who are watching you about Jesus?

16. What answer do you have when a friend comes to you in the middle of the night, during a crisis, or when trembling in fear, and asks, "*What must I do to be saved?*"

Prayer

AND CAN IT BE

Hymn by Charles Wesley

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love Divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.