

Feet Out the Door
December 9, 2007
Acts 28:23-31
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Synopsis:

We finish the series Feet Out the Door this week with the same issue on our mind as Luke, the writer of Acts.

1. How does the gospel go to the ends of the earth, *geographically?*
2. How does the gospel go to the ends of the earth, *personally?*

Here's the quick answer:

God offers salvation in Jesus Christ through us to all who listen.

I.

Who's Listening?

Acts 28:30 "They will listen"

What makes people listen?

- Story of Dad and NCAA basketball finals
- *Dad paid attention through the static

A Question:

If the truth about Jesus is so clear to us,
why don't all people listen and believe?
READ 28:24

II.

God Is Speaking

Acts 28:23 "From morning to evening he explained the matter (gospel) to them (the Jews)"

History of Preaching, Paul: our series

- Peter preaches (Pentecost)
- Peter and John preach
- Peter goes to Cornelius
- Paul preaches: Philippi, Thess, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus

-Paul now in Rome

READ Acts 1:6-8 (fulfilled) = Feet Out the Door!

What has Paul been preaching?

-READ Acts 28:23b, 30-31

*Kingdom of God, Jesus as Messiah, from Scripture

To whom has he been preaching? Jew first, then Greek

-Pisidian Antioch 13:46 "Go to Gentiles"

-Corinth 18:6 "Go

-Rome 28:17-31 "Go

*Perplexed because they don't listen

Why preach to Jews first? Gospel is from Jews:

Kingdom of God, Jesus as Messiah, Scripture

Gospel = 5 Act play

1. Good Creation

2. Humans fall

3. Israel BC as solution?

4. Jesus as God's solution

5. Post Easter

= where we live

*God is speaking

*Have you *heard* the gospel in your life?

III.

Hearing and Listening

Acts 28:26 "You will indeed listen but never understand"

Background Noise:

-Emails, radio, TV, multi-tasking

-no one listens anymore

Famous passage from Isaiah 6 = READ 28:26

-Call narrative Isaiah 6:9-10

Hebrew:

-"*Keep* listening but don't understand" (IMPV)

-"*Make* their minds dull"

Greek (quoted here)

- “You *will* listen but won’t understand”
- “This people’s heart *has* grow dull”
- *Paul’s experience is that some listen, some don’t

Question:

If the truth about Jesus is so clear to us,
why don’t all people listen and believe?

God speaks; do we listen?

- My life: wasn’t listening until pain (high school)
- C.S. Lewis: God whispers in our pleasure, shouts in our pain

*Have you *listened* to the gospel in your life?

IV.

Go to Those Who Listen

Acts 28:28 “This salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles”

Paul’s Conclusion: READ 28:28

Who is listening?

- For Paul: Jew first, but now Gentiles = pagans
- Frustrating
- Fulfills God’s promise to the nations from Israel

Who’s listening?

- don’t blame those who don’t = wicked
- don’t blame yourself for bad presentation = I’m bad

Go where people listen

Go where you can speak unhindered (*a-kolutos*) last word in Acts