



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 39 A Prepper’s Mentality
By Pastor Jody May 06/25/2023**

Acts 13:13-41 ESV

Paul and Barnabas at Antioch in Pisidia

¹³ Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, ¹⁴ but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵ After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it.” ¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

“Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸ And for about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ ²³ Of this man’s offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴ Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’

²⁶ “Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation. ²⁷ For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him. ²⁸ And though they found in him no guilt worthy of death, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. ³² And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, ³³ this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,

“‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you.’

³⁴ And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, ³⁴ no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,

“‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David.’

³⁵ Therefore he says also in another psalm,



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“You will not let your Holy One see corruption.”

³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption, ³⁷ but he whom God raised up did not see corruption. ³⁸ Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹ and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. ⁴⁰ Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

⁴¹ “Look, you scoffers,
be astounded and perish;
for I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.”

[REVIEW/INTRODUCTION]

Wk. 38 What to Expect when You Embrace Your Call – Some will be open to God’s Word, some will be closed to it, and only a few embrace it.

This is the proper expectation to have, when you have that right expectation, you will stop with the procrastination of sharing God’s Word. So, it is in the book of Acts and so it is in your life and mine. The life of every believer is to determine for oneself how are you being called to the great commission.

Luke 24:47 ESV

⁴⁷ and that **repentance** for the **forgiveness** of **sins should be proclaimed** in his name to all **nations**, beginning from Jerusalem.

That is an ongoing mandate ‘*should be proclaimed*’ with the only time limitation being that of Jesus’ return.

Matthew 24: 14 & 27 ESV

¹⁴ And this **gospel** of the kingdom **will be proclaimed** throughout the **whole world** as a testimony to all nations, **and then the end will come.**

²⁷ For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.



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We have thus established the why as to why study the book of Acts. To learn about our command to proclaim, for there is an end coming, and it will be sudden without warning. **How does that strike you?** To know there is an end out there, it’s coming, and you don’t know where it’s at. All we can do to Prepare or **PREP** is to stay close to Jesus, follow Him, seek the Kingdom of God first, seek Him with this family, and put faith in Him.

Back in 2011 National Geographic got into the Reality Show business and produced 4 seasons of the show, “Doomsday Preppers”.¹ What they highlighted was the fact that there was a growing amount of people in our country that thought the end was coming in an apocalyptic style within their lifetime. When I say end, I don’t mean the return of Jesus but that there was some event that was going to end life as we know it. There were four seasons of the show that showed some extremely industrial people building bunkers, stocking and producing ammo, hoarding fuel and food rations. The reality is though, that was over 10 years ago, so where’s the end? Some of those people have died without ever seeing their worst fears come to life. Their fears got the best of them **and instead of prepping** they just **lived paranoid** lives until their demise. (It was just this past week we acknowledged that Greta Thunberg’s prediction of us being wiped out in 5 years went past due).

I can’t blame them, for there is a part of me that sometimes, especially after watching the news, I want to go **prepare** for the worst as well. I mean, I grew up with movies like, Planet of the Apes, Road Warrior, the Terminator, Water World, The Stand, Escape from New York, and the Postman which led me into The Walking Dead, and then to include our kids into apocalyptic hysteria we all got into the Hunger Games, Divergent, and the Maze Runner series, and I know there are another 50 things I am missing. The point is the story tellers of our day, have picked up on a theme, that **we are very fearful of what tomorrow brings, because bad leadership breeds little hope.**

Here's the Truth in all of this, there is an end coming. People, know deep down, there is a point of no return, we all have been made aware of the Glory

¹ https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.94a9f7c7-20a7-4de3-1427-b9c0817d3d4c?autoplay=0&ref_=atv_cf_strg_wb



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of God in creation, Paul says we suppress that truth in Romans 1:18 and there is a day when it comes to an end.

Romans 14:10-12 ESV

For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written,

*“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”*

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

There is a theme in Paul’s theology that is to prepare the reader by waking them up to the grace they have found and prepping them for the day of Christ’s return. You just read this week Jesus’ description of it in a parable where the groom slams the door shut on those that were too lazy to care (Mat 25). What I want to point out since there is an end, that having a preppers mentality is not wrong, the question is though **what are you prepping for?**

If you think there is no point to dealing with your neighbors, and you believe in the stories of our time, increasingly you will be controlled by **FEAR**. BUT if you have **FAITH** in Christ (believing the scripture), you will understand that more are to be saved, there is time left to use!

Those that FEAR spend all their time trying to control their lives.

Those with FAITH spend all their time giving control to God.

Those that FEAR spend their time stockpiling resources.

Those with FAITH spend time figure out how to use resources for God.

Those that FEAR spend all their time looking after themselves.

Those with FAITH spend time looking after others.

Jesus said the Harvest is great and workers are few so pray for workers for this harvest (Luke 10:2). That to me says that Jesus prefers for me to have FAITH and trust Him and be less concerned about how our world thinks the future may pan out. His call is to harvest for Him not to hoard for myself!

Are we prepping out of fear trying to escape some post apocalyptic future, or are we preparing out of faith for the coming Kingdom of God? My family I want to encourage you to pick the later, to pick faith, to pick the Kingdom,



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and if you do I have three ways to help you prep for the right thing the 2nd coming of Jesus: **Know your History** (helps to keep a positive attitude), **Asses your Needs** (helps with expending your time in the right places), and then **Make a Plan** (gives you goals to work for).

1. Know Your History.

[show this passage as a whole please]

¹⁶ So Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said:

“Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen. ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel **chose our fathers** and **made the people great** during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm **he led them** out of it. ¹⁸ And for about forty years **he put up with them** in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And after **destroying seven nations** in the land of Canaan, **he gave them their land** as an inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about 450 years. And after that **he gave them judges** until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then they asked for a king, and **God gave them Saul** the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when **he had removed him, he raised up David** to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’ ²³ Of this man’s offspring **God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.** ²⁴ Before his coming, John had proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but behold, after me one is coming, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.’

This passage shows you that all of History is **HIS** STORY, it’s God’s story. Paul highlights all of God’s actions in Saving a remnant for Himself. (Go through the list in Red) Paul connects his Jewish audience that is a long way from home, with the Jews that live in Jerusalem, and he does it through building a Salvation chain, that includes these people in Perga and Pamphylia and this chain ends in Christ. This sabbath day message was brought just for them. Paul means to put them in a positive frame of mind, to give them a good attitude, to hear the good news.

Knowing where you come from and how you got here, takes a lot of fear out of the equation of what might happen to you next, especially when you see the providential hand of God on your life. Paul is opening up to their mind that if **God is in your past why wouldn’t He be in your present** as well. Paul is the poster child that no man is too small, too lost, or too rotten that they cannot



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be used by and loved on by God showing that God was at work even in the dark times of your life. The Gospel keeps no record of wrongs (1 Cor 13).

And if it works this way for these first-century Jews then it will work for the God-fearers in that room as well. That of course means it works the same way for you. We all are God-fearers or children by faith:

Galatians 3:7-8 ESV

⁷Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.”

We are the children of Abraham, we are the remnant by faith, so the same God that worked in Israel’s history, is the same God working in our history, to ensure that we are not lost, that in our end we will be preserved and blessed.

The world can worry us to death sometimes, can’t it? It can force us into this **unhealthy prepping lifestyle** where all we do is take our anxieties about life and we put that nervous energy into prepping for our future that we think will happen.

The Bible says the opposite. You’re not supposed to know the future because God didn’t want you stressing about it instead, He tells us simply:

1 Peter 5:7 ESV

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

[GOSPEL]

Knowing God is in the working of your personal story brings peace it shows He cares for you, and what’s more not a one we are told will be lost ([John 6:39](#)).

The world runs us ragged through fear because of the unknown but our connection with Jesus rescues us from that fear. You see Jesus has already faced our worst fears for us; the wrath of God, the penalty of sin, and a traitorous execution. Now by FAITH as children of Abraham, God’s people, we can face our tomorrows, because we know Jesus conquered our futures.



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Prepping for the Kingdom of God, begins with knowing our history and then it moves onto phase 2, assessing your needs.

2. Assess Your Needs.

²⁶“Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the **message of this salvation**.

Paul is saying good news you maybe didn’t know this BUT we are here to bring you the answer you were looking for, this **message of Salvation!** Paul wants to help them **asses the need** before them to prepare for what is coming.

²⁷For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him.

That shows God was preparing for their need through men that wanted to keep the answer from them for their own gain.

²⁸And though they found in him **no guilt worthy of death**,

That’s important mark that, this condition was necessary for Jesus to have, or He couldn’t address the need.

they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him from the dead, ³¹and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. ³²And we bring you the **good news** that what **God promised to the fathers**,

So here comes the good news, here’s where the need that they have will be addressed.

³³this he has fulfilled to us their children **by raising Jesus**, as also it is written in the second Psalm,

“‘You are my Son,
today I have begotten you.’



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³⁴ And as for the fact that he raised him from the dead, ⁹no more to return to **corruption**, he has spoken in this way,

“I will give you the holy and **sure blessings of David.**’

Paul boils down all of Israel’s History and changes the focus. Jews always thought the story of God was to make them special through gifts of land and worldly prosperity, based on their obedience. Paul says no, the Jews were a means to **right the problem** of a **fallen creation**, to bring back eternal life, what Adam had in the beginning based on his obedience. Jesus is the Holy and sure blessing of David, His descendent from the stump of Jesse ([Is 11:1](#)), the one to be forever on the throne ([2 Sam 7:12-13](#)), so He is the one king to replace all kings. That was the thing that all men NEED to have a better David to get that sure blessing from v.34, this same blessing gives all men a replacement for Adam, for the problem started there.

³⁵ Therefore he says also in another psalm, “You will not let your **Holy One** see **corruption.**’

³⁶ For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw **corruption**, ³⁷ **but he whom God raised up did not see corruption.**

So, Paul now connects OT prophecy, coming out of David’s mouth with the good news he’s preaching now, here’s the passage he’s quoting:

Psalm 16:9-10 ESV

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see **corruption.**

He focuses on the word corruption 4 times quoting the same OT passage that Peter quoted in Acts 2 in his address at Pentecost. Acts 13 and Acts 2 are the only two places you find this word in the NT.

Corruption: **1426** διαφθορά (*diaphthora*), ἄς (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 1312; TDNT 9.93–LN 23.205 **decay**, decomposition (Ac 2:27, 31; 13:34, 35, 36, 37+)²

² Swanson, J. (1997). [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek \(New Testament\)](#) (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.



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The intent here is that Paul is telling them, **I KNOW what you fear the most**, your body lying in a grave decomposing, and the end of your existence staring you in the face, **BUT through Jesus** you don’t have to fear that anymore!

The **primary need for all men**, the Jew and the God fearer, is to have an **everlasting King**, everything else is secondary! It is through Kingship that deliverance from death happens, that’s the only path. A King must grant you clemency, a King must transfer His right to resurrection to you, a King can give you his right to inherit his reward. The only way we all escape corruption and make no mistake that is what you should be afraid of, **eternal death**, is through the Kingship of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

So right now, you can know if your King is Jesus or not; **are you living more by FAITH or more by FEAR?**

By FAITH in a King, we will storm the gates of Hell, by FEAR of the enemy we will cower behind the walls we build. Where are **‘we’** standing today church family? A proper preppers mentality is to know what your greatest need is, the Kingship of the Lord Jesus, but that requires you to surrender your plan for prepping out of FEAR and embracing living FREE in the FAITH of Jesus.

3. Make A Plan.

³⁸Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man **forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you**,³⁹ and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. ⁴⁰Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about:

⁴¹ “Look, you scoffers,
be astounded and perish;
for I am doing a work in your days,
a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.” **[Habakkuk 1:5]**

Paul calls for the inaction of the preppers plan, repent and believe in the new King to gain forgiveness. Call on Jesus to be forgiven, seek Mercy from the King, and you will be freed from the law that only brings death/corruption.



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So a preppers plan, looking at this world through Faith, knowing an end is coming, what we need to be concerned about is not what this life brings now, but to be concerned with when Jesus returns do I want His resurrection of new life? So what do we do, what is the plan, to prepare or to become spiritual preppers waiting for His return?

[CHALLENGE]

1. Grab your essentials food and water, and then Grab the fixins.

John 6:35 ESV

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Do you have a Bible you can read? Does it have any study notes, does it have outlines, does it have biographical and historical info., does it explain the genres. Here’s the bottom line, can you digest what you are trying to eat? I know that the ESV works hard at showing me what I know to be true, that the whole biblical narrative points to Jesus. Other good versions to use are the *Legacy Standard* and the *Reformation Bible*.

Secondly what about the fixins? So let me show you a good place to start:

<https://press.founders.org>



2. Make the right connection, develop your allies.

Proverbs 18:1,10, &24 ESV



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18 Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than brother.

Here's the deal for a proper prepper mentality from Proverbs 18, if you isolate yourself with your fearful imaginations, your anxieties over a dark future will take root in your mind/soul and you will lose hope. But those that know God run to Him, as a central meeting point. It is there that you find friends that stick closer than a brother, and because they are seeing God rightly, they will let you know if your fear is running away with you, and when your faith needs to be repaired.

3. Practice your survival skills, learn to do them in the dark.

1 Timothy 4:7-8 ESV

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Being prepared for the day of Christ, is to practice godliness, that is the processes by which you **grow your faith** – the spiritual disciplines, that Paul says is good for now and the life to come. This is how you prepare for your resurrection.

The thing to keep in mind about prepping, is do you actually know how to use what you have? Have you built a consistent routine that you do every day, every week, 52 weeks out of the year? We need to develop a system of discipleship by which when things get hard, your process for godliness doesn't falter, and you can thrive in the mist of your trials.

Above all, if you have not started prepping yet it may be because you have not realized there is only one way to escape an eternal death and that is through



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King Jesus. Let’s all go to the Lord right now and ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts to receive our corrections and to receive the Lord as King if you have not done so yet.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that has secured your future by orchestrating your life, your history, to meet his Son.

Go in the name of the Son, that secured your future by facing your worst fears, an eternal death and offers you His righteousness as your King.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that keeps you from FEARING this earthly future, and empowers your FAITH waiting with bated breath for the Second coming.