

## Two Faiths - One Heart (Pentimento) Acts 13 <sup>h</sup>

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Let me start by saying this: I have no idea what I am talking about, but I read about a process in art called pentimento

#### 2. Definition of Pentimento

Pentimento is an artistic term that describes the phenomenon in which earlier images or brushstrokes become visible after being painted over.

3. This occurs when an artist changes their mind about a particular aspect of their work, leading to the uncovering of previous layers.

4. **Symbolism of Pentimento:** Pentimento not only reflects the physical changes in a painting but also a change of mind: It illustrates the artist's evolving thoughts and decisions during the creative process.

#### 5. Examples of Pentimento in Famous Artworks

Artwork	Artist	Description of Pentimento
Mona Lisa	Leonardo da Vinci	Infrared scans show adjustments to her hands and face, revealing the artist's changing vision.
The Old Guitarist	Pablo Picasso	X-rays reveal earlier compositions beneath the surface, showcasing Picasso's revisions.
Portrait of a Young Raphael Woman		Restoration revealed a previously painted dog, indicating a shift in symbolism.

6. What I am alluding to is that pentimento serves as a powerful metaphor in our lives, highlighting the complexities of change and the layers that define identity.

7. It reminds us that beneath the surface, there are often hidden issues waiting to be discovered.

8. Having said all that, each one of us will display pentimento in our lives

9. It might be a pressure situation, and then that latent anger will rise.

10. Or it may be that your education or theological biases become evident over time – there are many examples we can allude to

11. And so, for each one of us, there is pentimento in our faith. Stuff bleeds through.

12. Today, we will look at three people and wind our way into **Acts 13**, where this is displayed quite effectively, and will then give us a chance to reflect on our own biases and long-held prejudices and beliefs

13. So today, I really did want to merely give you a history lesson because it probably would have bored you

14. Luke does an admirable job of rehearsing the history of Israel in **Acts 13**, and you can read it as well as I can – and so please do read it

### JONAH:

1. Let me start by saying that comparisons are not good, so do not do it.

2. You are unique, created in the image of God for His glory

3. If you believe God grades on a curve, then everyone wins.

4. Here is a man who loves his country, and he's faithful to the institutions and to the God who called them to be God's people.

5. He was instructed by God to go and preach against Nineveh

6. But Jonah would not go and instead caught a ship to Spain.
7. To cut a long story short, the sailors threw him overboard, and he was then swallowed by a whale.
8. Three days later, he was belched out upon the land and went reluctantly to preach to Ninevah, starting the countdown for the destruction of that city, but it was not destroyed.
9. I don't think Jonah was aware of all the components of his faith, just as I'm not of mine, you are not of yours.
10. They are, in there, deep elements added from backgrounds, culture, from nation, from poetry, from conversations and reading, from pains and war and loves and hates and prejudices all mixed in there.
11. It is part of the way we worship, think about God, and read the scripture.
12. So, why does he run?
13. That's a question we need to ask
14. Because in that same heart is another faith.
15. Jonah told the sailors, ***"I am a Hebrew, and I reverence the Lord God of heaven who made the sea and the land."***
16. God begins to work on him through creation
17. Story of the Israelites and the Exodus
18. Jonah knows the impartiality of God's love and grace.
19. Scripture says, ***"God repented of the calamity that was going to be sent upon Nineveh, and the city was saved."***
20. And Jonah said, ***"Didn't I tell you? That's the very reason I didn't want to go. They are Israel's enemy. I knew you would love them, forgive them, and accept them because you're full of mercy and grace."***
21. Think about it - there are times when nothing is harder to take than the grace of God when it is shown to someone else.
22. Luke says. ***"God is kind to the ungrateful, and to the wicked."***
23. The difficulty with forgiveness is that it looks a lot like condoning.
24. If I were running the world
25. In the summer of 1992, Vaclav Havel, a Czech statesman, gave an address at Lehigh University. and said, ***"No member of a single race, no member of a single nation, of a single sex, of a single religion, may be endowed with any basic right different from anyone else."***
26. But there's something in me that, occasionally, wants my faith to support me in the desire for, the appetite for, the feeling that I am a little different, maybe a little superior to, maybe better than .....
27. And so my friends, if there is still in you the residue of such phrases as ***"better than, greater than, superior to,"*** take a moment to ask the Lord to deal with your heart.

**PETER:**

1. Imagine a moment when ordinary believers became extraordinary by sharing a powerful message with the world.
2. In the Jonah story, so much of what's going on in the early Christian movement.
3. And so it is that Luke tells the story about Peter.
4. He was selected by God, and said to him, ***"We need to go and preach to the nations?"***
5. Peter said, ***"No, I do not eat that stuff."***

6. Remember, as with the reluctance of the first Jonah, Peter left Joppa and went to Caesarea and to the House of an Italian military man as foreign as you get with an army of occupation in Israel

7. Peter then said, ***“Well, it looks like God accepts these people***

8. When there are all the cultural, historic, national, economic, and educational things shaping our lives in certain ways, and then God taps us on the shoulder and says, *“Shall we talk – who do you see?”*

9. Paul told about Peter coming to Antioch when they had a church dinner there, and there were Jews and Gentile Christians together.

10. This is the same man who stood up on the day of Pentecost and said, ***“The promises to you and to all your children and their children, and to as many as a far-off God will call.”***

11. He said it, but when it came right down to it, my grandparents, my parents said, ***“This is what I eat, and this is with whom I eat, and this is the way I eat, and this is the way I talk, and this is the way I pronounce words.***

12. Remember, once in **Luke 9**, when there was an exorcist who was not of the band or Jewish followers? And the disciples came to Jesus and said, ***“We saw a man casting out demons, but he was not in our group. And so, we forbid him.”***

13. **Chapter 18** Some others were bringing in their babies. Mothers were bringing them, and they were listening to Jesus, but apparently, the infants, the babies, were making a disturbance.

14. So, the apostles came in and said, ***“Get the kids out of here. We're trying to have Kingdom business, so get them out of here.”***

15. And Jesus said, ***Permit the children to come to me, for such is the Kingdom.***

16. When God chose to say, ***“I am the God of all creation of land and sea. And I love you.”*** He decided to send a Jew from Nazareth in Israel.

17. So, who am I to hinder God?

18. Who am I to judge someone else or think that person is not worthy of God's grace or love?

#### **PAUL:**

1. And so, we come to Paul, the persecutor of Christians, who approved Stephen's stoning

2. In **Acts 13**, we see the adventures of Paul and Barnabas, highlighting their trials and triumphs while spreading Christianity.

3. This chapter serves as a testament to their courage and conviction and is essential reading for anyone wanting to understand the essence of faith, and you'll appreciate the profound lessons and inspiration stemming from these early missionary efforts.

4. **Acts 13** serves as a pivotal turning point in the early church

5. As they travel to Pisidian, the message resonates with both Jews and Gentiles, illustrating the transformative nature of the Gospel.

6. The contrast between the acceptance they receive and the opposition they face from certain Jewish leaders serves as a powerful reminder of the challenges inherent in the walk of faith

7. By the chapter's close, the joy of new converts underscores the chapter's overarching theme: the Gospel is for everyone, inviting us to step out of our comfort zones and share the message of Jesus.

8. **Acts 13:1-3** ***“Now in the assembly that was at Antioch there were some prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they served the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit***

**said, ‘Separate Barnabas and Saul for me, for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”**

9. Their interaction with Elymas the sorcerer reveals that opposition often arises when God’s truth is being proclaimed.

10. But we need to remain strong, knowing that God’s power is greater than any resistance.

11. Paul’s boldness demonstrates the confidence that comes from the Holy Spirit.

12. The next verse I want to look at is **Acts 13:12: “Then the proconsul, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.”**

13. Then Paul speaks in the synagogue in Pisidian and reminds them of God’s faithfulness throughout history.

14. And so too, I would like to remind you to remember all that the Lord has done for you

15. **Psalm 103:2 says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases. Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.”**

16. And now comes the reason why they are on this first missionary journey – to proclaim Jesus, the Promised Savior, not only for Israel, but also for the Gentiles

17. **“For so has the Lord commanded us, saying, ‘I have set you as a light for the Gentiles, that you should bring salvation to the uttermost parts of the earth.’ As the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of God.” (Acts 13:47-48)**

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. In October 1940, Presidential candidate Franklin Roosevelt said, *“I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars.”*

2. In October 1964, candidate Lyndon Johnson said, *“We are not about to send American boys nine or ten thousand miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.”*

3. We’re so used to politicians not keeping their campaign promises that their outrageous quotes hardly bother us.

4. But it greatly bothers us when someone we love, and trust fails to keep an important promise.

5. If you are going to entrust your soul for eternity to God, it is important to know that He keeps His promises.

6. Many of us have had the experience of being disappointed with God.

7. **Savior, Jesus” (13:23). “To us the word of this salvation is sent out” (13:26). “And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children [or, to us, their children] in that He raised up Jesus, as it also is written ...” (13:32-33).**

8. God is sovereignly moving in all of history according to His purpose to reconcile man to Himself and so fulfill His promise of salvation

9. But, as with all of us, they needed to personally put their trust in His promise of salvation through Jesus Christ so that the words of His warning did not come upon them.

10. And so too is the challenge for us today – let us not allow **Pentimento** to bleed through, and so compromise our faith in Christ