I. Synopsis

As a culture, we strive to improve our well-being. God the Father desires for us to become all that He created us to be. His path to the "new you" involves receiving His grace. This morning we focus on the path of forgiveness.

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II. Ice Breaker Question

Americans spend billions of dollar each year obtaining "the new you." What are the various ways people can pursue this transformation? What are some of the motivating factors related to this transformation?

III. **Scripture**: Acts 13:26-43 (ESV)

IV. Discussion Questions

1. How would being free of the charges of the death penalty affect a prisoner on death row? How might this person live into "the new you"?

2. In this particular passage, Paul is speaking on the Sabbath in the synagogue in Galatia. Those listening love the One True Living God, but have not heard about Jesus, yet. Paul quotes from four different Old Testament passages. Why do suppose this is important to the audience?

3. Prior to Jesus' sacrifice, in order to receive forgiveness, one had to bring an animal sacrifice to the Temple. Based on Paul's message, how does one receive forgiveness? How does the audience respond? Why do you suppose there are varied responses?

4. Paul intentionally uses the legal term, "justified" vs. 39, which means to acquit. What does this imply about you? How does it impact your life to know that you are free of the charges of being found guilty? How might you live into "the new you" in light of being forgiven?