

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> Missionary Journey**  
**Reactions in Antioch in Pisidia and Iconium**  
**Acts 13:42 – 14:7**

Last time...The Holy Spirit led Barnabas and Paul (without John Mark) to Antioch in Pisidia  
Invited to share a word of exhortation in the synagogue, Paul took the hearers on a  
concise survey of the history of the Jews and God's promise of a Savior to/thru  
them

He preached the Gospel of grace, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Son of David

In Jesus are fulfilled God's promises of

- salvation
- the forgiveness of sins
- justification
- resurrection unto eternal life

This time...the reaction of the hearers to the Gospel...in Antioch in Pisidia and in Iconium

We are in Acts 13 and Acts 14

**Acts 13**

v42-43 besought...persuaded:

When the service in the synagogue ended, Paul and Barnabas were swarmed

The Gentiles..."ye that fear God" in v16 and v26...want more

They invited Paul and Barnabas to come back next week to preach that message  
again

Rom 10:17

Saved from their sins and freed from the burden of the Law,

they are hungry for more of the Word of God, the Bread of Life.

Also, many of the Jews and the Gentile converts to Judaism followed Paul and  
Barnabas

And Paul and Barnabas convinced them to continue/abide/remain in the grace of  
God (v38-39, Eph 2:8-9)

Would they continue in the grace of God?

The Epistle to the Galatians is the Holy Spirit's response thru the

Apostle Paul to the subsequent attacks on the Gospel of Grace

Gal 1:6-12

Gal 2:16 – 3:3

v44     came almost the whole city:  
      Paul and Barnabas accepted the invitation to preach again and...  
      Good News spread fast!

Almost the entire city came to hear the Word of God!!!

1. How did that happen?

Did one of the elders or a Communications director send out a  
tweet or buy Facebook ads or billboard space around town?

By word-of-mouth, people telling other people what they heard  
and inviting them to come hear it for themselves  
Evangelism, the work of thanksgiving and love, is for everybody,  
NOT just the pastor or the Social Media coordinator!

Do you hear the Word of God that edifies, exhorts, and comforts  
you?

Tell someone!

Share it, don't hoard it!

Invite others to come hear it for themselves!

That is how the Gospel goes forth and the Body of Christ grows  
and is strengthened

2. This is why the Church gathers – to hear the Word of God

To 2 Peter 3:18 and to make Him known

To preach and teach the Word of God (Acts 5:42),  
the entire counsel of God (Acts 20:27)

To minister to the fearful, hopeless, and the afflicted with the  
Word of God

The Church is not a social club

We do not come here to “do church”, we come to make disciples

In these days, we strengthen what remains (Rev 3:2) with the  
Word of God

Both these things need to happen, all of us being faithful to our calling

v45 But...the Jews...filled with envy...spoke against:

But...instead of rejoicing to see the nearly the entire city coming to the synagogue to hear about the OTL God, the God of AI&J, the Jews

1. were filled with envy
  - jealousy, indignation, malice
  - toward Paul and Barnabas
2. spoke against
  - disputed, denied
  - the teaching of Paul
    - salvation by grace
    - forgiveness of sin
    - justification as a gift of God and not a work of man
3. contradicted
  - the Word of God
4. blasphemed/spoke evil of/vilified
  - the Sender of Paul and Barnabas (John 20:21 and Acts 13:4)
  - the Author of the Word

The reaction of the Jews to the interest in hearing the Word of God was

- NOT Holy-Spirit filled (spiritual)
- unholy spirit-filled (carnal)

v46-47 waxed bold...the Lord commanded us:

In the face of fierce opposition, what did the preachers of the Gospel do?

They were bold to speak

They did not cower or hide, they did not fall silent

They stood firm in the face of evil

Why were they bold?

“The Lord has commanded us.”

Boldness to be a witness for Jesus Christ comes from the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

Acts 4:29-31

Prov 28:1

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion

Paul and Barnabas did not debate or argue with the contradicting and blaspheming Jews...they rebuked them

It was necessary that the Word of God should be first spoken to you

John 4:22     **for salvation is of the Jews**

Rom 9:4     Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service *of God*, and the promises

The promises of God are to/thru AI&J

But seeing you have put it from you

Shoved aside the promise of God to you

Rejected the Word of God delivered to you

You judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life

By your choice, you condemn yourselves, God did not so choose or condemn

John 3:16-18

We turn to the Gentiles...quoting Is 49:6

And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

with Matt 10:40 and John 20:21

Ps 18:43-44    Thou hast delivered me from the strivings of the people; *and* thou hast made me the head of the heathen: a people *whom* I have not known shall serve me. As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

Acts 10:36a

v48    Gentiles...were glad...as many as were ordained:

The Gentiles had a spiritual response to the spiritual news – they believed

Full of good cheer by the Good News, they glorified the Word of God

As many as were ordained/appointed to eternal life

(in Christ, Who is eternal Life)

I am not in the camp of Christians who believe

- God chooses some to salvation and some to damnation
- man does not choose

If God chooses and man does not,  
He chose the Gentiles to salvation  
He chose the Jews to damnation  
God forbid!

Rom 10:1-4

Rom 11:1-2

I am not in the camp of Christians who believe

- man chooses salvation or damnation
- God does not choose

If man chooses and God does not, v48 is a lie

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie,  
promised before the world began

Heb 6:17-19 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew  
unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his  
counsel, confirmed *it* by an oath: That by two  
immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for  
God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who  
have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set  
before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the  
soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into  
that within the veil

I am a believer of the Word of God

God chooses

AND

Man chooses

We cannot take parts of the Bible and ignore other parts

We cannot pick and choose what we believe to be true in the Word

We are not given to interpret what God says (2 Peter 1:20-21)

What we are given to is to either believe what God says or not

v45-46	the Jews chose to not believe the Word of God; God did not make that decision/choice for them
v48	the Gentiles chose to believe the Word of God; God did not make that decision/choice for them
v48	God ordained/appointed/chose those who believed Him

Eph 1:4	the eternal Creator God chose before the foundation of the world
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Acts 2:23      the eternal, all-knowing God chose based on His  
foreknowledge  
Rom 8:28-30  
1 Peter 1:2      Elect according to the foreknowledge of  
God the Father  
Dan 2, 7, 9, 11    the foreknowledge of God displayed

1 Tim 2:4      God's desire is that all would be saved (Eph 2:8-9)  
Deut 30:15-20  
Ezk 18:4, 30-32      Repent, why die, no pleasure  
John 3:16

v49    word...published:

The Word of God was published/spread throughout Galatia  
Man's interpretation of the Word of God was not, the Word was!

How?

Word-of-mouth, people telling other people  
The Word is spread by...all disciples, not just a few!

v50    But the Jews stirred up...raised persecution:

The Gospel is preached and the Word of God is taught  
The Word of God spreads...and persecution rises  
Whenever and wherever God is working, so is the devil!

The unbelieving Jews "rewarded" Jesus' faithful ambassadors by

- stirring up...urged to hostility, provoked to violence
  - the devout and honorable women...religious wives of the men  
who heard Paul's teaching in the synagogue (demonic!)
  - chief men of the city...Gentile leaders
- raising persecution against them
- expelling them...threw them out of town  
John 16:2a    They shall put you out of the synagogues

v51-52 shook off the dust...to Iconium:

Paul and Barnabas

- did not
  - debate or argue with the unbelievers
  - fight back, returning evil for evil
  - stay and cast pearls before swine
- did
  - bear witness against the unbelievers (Luke 9:1-5)
  - keep moving, being led by the Holy Spirit
  - leave with “no blood on them” (Ezk 3)

Matt 10:11-23

The new disciples of Jesus Christ in Antioch in Pisidia were filled with

- joy (John 16:20b, 24; Acts 5:41)...being in the will of God
- The Holy Spirit

A fruitful stay in Antioch in Pisidia

## **Acts 14**

v1 in Iconium...synagogue...so spake...Gentiles believed:

[ map ]

The Gospel goes to the Jew first and then the Gentile

As they did and said in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia, so do and say Paul and Barnabas in the synagogue in Iconium

Result: a great harvest of souls (Jews and Gentiles)...Rom 10:17

v2 But the unbelieving Jews...Gentiles:

And where God is working, so is the devil!

The unbelieving Jews

- stirred up the unbelieving Gentiles
- made their minds evil affected
  - infected/poisoned the minds of the unbelieving Gentiles with the evil in their minds
  - breathed hatred for Paul and Barnabas into the hearts and minds of the heathen Gentiles

Are we discerning a pattern?

Nonetheless...

v3 Long time...abode...speaking boldly:

Not affected by the hatred and slander of the unbelievers, Paul and Barnabas are busy about the Father's business

- stayed in town...not trying to win a popularity contest but "constrained" by the love of Christ to preach the Gospel
- speaking boldly...the preaching of the Gospel requires speaking, and boldly so in the face of opposition
- in the Lord...about the Lord, not themselves or their "brand", with the boldness that comes from the Holy Spirit
- giving testimony/witness of the Gospel of grace
- exercising spiritual gifts to confirm the Gospel preached
- loving the people of Iconium in the face of bitter resistance

v4-6 But...divided...assault...stone them...fled:

Where God is working, so is the devil!

The population of Iconium was divided

- some with the Jews...standing on anti-grace and anti-christ
- some with the Lord's ambassadors...standing on grace, forgiveness of sin, justification as a gift of God

The children of the devil...both Gentiles and Jews...had a violent impulse to kill by stoning Paul and Barnabas

The children of God...Paul and Barnabas...were, by the revelation of God protecting His children, made aware of this impending assault and fled

Slander and hatred is one thing, murder is another  
And Paul and Barnabas have not yet finished their course –  
the Lord still has work for them to do  
Where Jesus is not welcome, keep moving

Matt 10:23a, 28-34

Paul and Barnabas move on to Lystra and Derbe, led by the Holy Spirit

[ map ]



v7      there...preached:

Paul and Barnabas do there what the Holy Spirit sent them to do –  
preach the Gospel

The threat of violence did not silence God's servants,  
it led to boldly preaching the Gospel somewhere else  
Where Jesus Christ is not welcome, the disciples are to keep moving

Persecution: the fuel used by God to spread the Gospel

### **Application/Lessons**

#### 1. Evangelism – sharing the Gospel

The Father's work of seeking and saving the lost...is the work for EVERY disciple/believer  
It is a work of love (for God and man) and thanksgiving (for God)  
Someone loved the Lord and loved you enough to risk your backlash to share Jesus Christ  
with you  
Love the Lord and love someone else enough to risk their backlash and share Jesus Christ  
with them!

The Church grows and is strengthened by loving Jesus and making Him known...  
word-of-mouth, people telling other people and inviting them to come hear the  
Word of God for themselves

The only people on earth with promises of hope and peace and life is the Church  
Be not silent!  
Be bold...Spirit-filled!

#### 2. Where God is working, so is the devil

The same Gospel, only 2 reactions/choices  
A. Jews and Gentiles that believe  
B. Jews and Gentiles that do not believe

The Gospel of Grace is always under attack

When it is shared, the unbeliever may respond with hostility  
We are not trying to win a popularity contest, we are vessels in the hands of God to lead  
people out of darkness and eternal death into light and eternal life

Confidently issue the invitation  
Confidently contend for the faith

Do not try win a debate or an argument

The Word of God is not a club with which to beat someone into submission

The Word of God is God's promise of eternal life for whosoever will believe

Sometimes we have to "shake the dust off your feet" and keep moving

**Matt 10:34-40**

2 Cor 2:14-16      Now thanks *be* unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one *we are* the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life.

Eph 6:19-20      And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak

Heb 13:6      So that we may boldly say, The Lord *is* my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Given to us is to share, to issue the invitation

Not given to us are the results

1 Cor 3:6-8      I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

Rest assured faithful servants, the Lord's reward is worth it!

1 Cor 15:58      Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Heb 6:10      God *is* not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Precious promises of the God Who cannot lie!