



Last week we were challenged to be concerned about souls, as we pray for others, prepare to share, plan to meet, while being persuasive & patient. Today we learn another great lesson that will free us up to **GO** take the Gospel to the Planet in the power of the Spirit!

Last Week: **FEET2FAITH:**

1. **Pray for Others.** Tell your kids (or those you influence) who you are praying for...or do it together? Ask who **THEY** are praying for.
2. **Prepare to Share.** Don't wing it. Start preparing (GOD, MAN, SIN, JESUS, JUDGMENT; share your faith story - what He has done/is doing in your life)
3. **Plan to Meet.** Quit putting it off. Put it on the calendar as you pray & prepare.
4. **Be Persuasive & Patient.** Be skillful. Be gentle. Be truthful. *"Always build toward having another conversation."* Then TELL your family or those you influence about sharing with others.

Paul & Barnabas were persuasive & patient as they shared God's plan that ultimately pointed to Jesus saying **"through this one forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."** (Acts 13:38) Many of the people, both Jews & Gentiles, were interested in hearing more.

**Acts 13:44-45** (NET) <sup>44</sup> On the next Sabbath almost the whole city assembled together to hear the word of the Lord.<sup>45</sup> But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they began to contradict what Paul was saying by reviling him.

Paul & Barnabas were faithful to share **the word of the Lord** - the message of Jesus. But some of the **Jews** became **jealous**. After all, the people of the city had never gathered in these numbers to hear THEIR message. They began to refute what Paul was saying, **reviling him** (ESV, NET); speaking evil of him (NIV = heaping abuse).

They aren't the first to be mistreated and spoken falsely about, and they won't be the last.

Believers might yield the TRAIL, but they should never yield the TRUTH. Paul & Barnabas wouldn't yield the truth.

**Acts 13:46** (NET) <sup>46</sup> Both Paul and Barnabas replied courageously, "It was necessary to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles.

After hundreds of years waiting on the Jewish Messiah, and after hearing Paul's compelling argument that Jesus WAS that Messiah, many of the Jewish people who hear the gospel **reject it**.

Paul & Barnabas would no longer reach out to the synagogue in Antioch, but they would again reach out first to the Jews wherever they went, as seen later in Acts (14:1, 18:5-6).

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"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, **to the Jew first** and also to the Greek." (**Rom. 1:16** NET)

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**Acts 13:47-48** (NET) <sup>47</sup> For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have appointed you to be a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' [from Is. 49:6] <sup>48</sup> When the **Gentiles** heard this, they began to rejoice and praise the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed for eternal life **believed**.

While many of the Jews rejected **the word of the Lord** - the message of Jesus, many **Gentiles** responded and **believed!**

Note to self: Don't take the credit when people reject the gospel or receive the gospel.

**BIG TRUTH: We ARE responsible to share the Gospel. We're NOT responsible for the response.**

Within Christianity people often divide up into 1 of 2 camps

1. **Arminianism** = people choose/reject God, or
2. **Calvinism** = God chooses/rejects people.

But in this text we see the tension between both **all who had been appointed for eternal life** (v.48) and **you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life** (v.46).

Throughout Scripture we see a great mystery of God choosing people & people choosing God - God's sovereignty & people's responsibility.

It is not for us to figure out the specifics of how this works. It is OUR responsibility to **take the Gospel to the planet in the power of the Spirit**.

**How about a new rule!?!?** You can't give your opinion on the matter if you're not being OBE-  
DIENT to share the Gospel.

**We ARE responsible to share the Gospel. We're NOT responsible for the response.**

Evidently, those who trusted Jesus didn't keep it to themselves. Instead...

**Acts 13:49-52** (NET) <sup>49</sup> So the word of the Lord was spreading through the entire region. <sup>50</sup> But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high social standing and the prominent men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and threw them out of their region. <sup>51</sup> So after **they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them**, they went to Iconium. <sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

The ministry of Paul & Barnabas was still fruitful despite the persecution. Jesus didn't promise His message would be received by all. The Gospel of Jesus is not a message that always unites. It also divides.

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**Matthew 10:34-39** (NET) <sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set *a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law*, <sup>36</sup> and a man's enemies will be the members of his household. <sup>37</sup> "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> And whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life because of me will find it.

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In fact, Paul & Barnabas experienced this kind of persecution as they get pushed out of town! They **shook the dust off their feet in protest against them.**

Jews made it their practice to shake the dust off their feet when reentering the Holy Land from a Gentile land - a picture of leaving the pagan practices & ideas in the dust behind them.<sup>1</sup> Jesus commanded his disciples to respond this way when their message was rejected (Matt 10:14; Mark 6:11; Luke 9:5). God would bring judgment to this place and the messengers are not responsible for the response of the audience.

This is a great lesson that should free us up to GO take the Gospel to the Planet in the power of the Spirit! Just as Paul & Barnabas demonstrated...

***We ARE responsible to share the Gospel. We're NOT responsible for the response.***

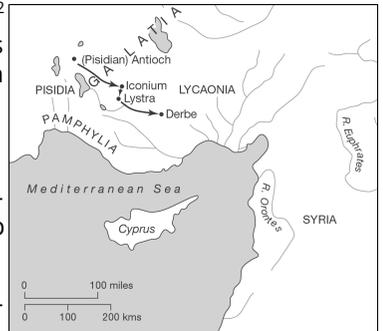
Paul & Barnabas might have been kicked out, but they aren't done. Some have rejected but many have received their message too!

**Acts 14:1-7** (NET) <sup>1</sup> The same thing happened in Iconium when Paul and Barnabas went into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a large group of both Jews and Greeks believed. <sup>2</sup> But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. <sup>3</sup> So they stayed there for a considerable time, speaking out courageously for the Lord, who testified to the message of his grace, granting miraculous signs and wonders to be performed through their hands. <sup>4</sup> But the population of the city was divided; some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. <sup>5</sup> When both the Gentiles and the Jews (together with their rulers) made an attempt to mistreat them and stone them, <sup>6</sup> Paul and Barnabas learned about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region. <sup>7</sup> There **they continued to proclaim the good news.**

Paul and Barnabas were brave but they weren't foolish.<sup>2</sup> Once again we see how persecution pushes Paul & Barnabas to spread the gospel to another city, rather than close down their ministry.

**Why keep going? Weren't they frustrated?**

1. **They WERE seeing fruit despite the persecution.** Positive response to the Gospel message will FUEL US to keep investing, even when many reject.
2. They were being faithful to what they had been commanded to do.



There is freedom found when we understand what they understood:

***BIG TRUTH: We ARE responsible to share the Gospel. We're NOT responsible for the response.***

<sup>1</sup> John B. Polhill, Acts, vol. 26, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 309.

<sup>2</sup> Hughes, 184.

## FEET2FAITH

- **Look for ripe fruit!** Quit spinning your tires with those who aren't listening & go to those who ARE!
- **Ask for a Divine Appointment to share the Gospel.** You do your job to show & share your faith in Jesus. Trust God to do His part to stir the conviction in their souls. Rest in knowing YOU CAN'T MAKE THE DECISION FOR THEM, and you aren't held responsible for that.

***We ARE responsible to share the Gospel. We're NOT responsible for the response.***

**Please call us if we can answer any questions or help you in any way.**

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