

Paul's First Missionary Journey Begins

Acts Chapter 13

Chapter 12 Ends with Barnabas and Paul returning to Antioch with John Mark.

Acts Part III "To the uttermost parts of the earth"

Act 13:1
Antioch
Syria

1) Preaching and Confronting Elymas vs 1 - 12

Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was {there,} prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

- In the Antioch Church there were prophets & teachers
- Equal and "as a matter of fact" no special or heightened spiritualness to this church. This was the administration God was using in this church. Today we classify churches as Teaching Churches, Worship Churches, Seeker Friendly, or Experience Driven Churches. This church had prophets and teachers, compared to Jerusalem which had Apostles. Caesarea had Philip an evangelist.
- Those that were the prophets and teachers were
 - Barnabas - A man of encouragement. Was there as the church was forming and helped fund it.
 - Simeon (called Niger) - (Simeon and Simon are the same much like Pete and Peter) Peter who is Simon was called by James in Acts 15 as Simeon. With that said many scholars place this Simeon as the Simon who from North Africa once carried the cross of Jesus to Golgotha. Imagine as a teacher the lessons he could teach.
 - Lucius of Cyrene - Possibly a companion of Simeon who was from Cyrene. Simeon who went home with his 2 sons and told the account of his experience in Jerusalem. Lucius may have heard and believed and has come to Antioch with Simeon.
 - Manaen - Grew up with Herod (This is Herod Antipas who killed John the Baptist and presided over Jesus trial.) As we looked at the Herods, we saw how corrupt and wicked this house was. And yet, out of this was Manaen. He became a believer and though he may have had favor and advantage through the House of Herod, Manaen finds the greater benefit with the Household of the Saints.
 - Saul - His humble beginnings here. Just added at the end of a list of prophets and teachers. Reference to Saul will be changed in this chapter to Paul. This also speaks of his humble change. Saul meaning "the Desired One" to Paul "Small or Little"
- What a wonderful group of men leading, teaching, and praying for the Church.

Act 13:2

While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Act 13:3

Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

- The order of events here are a great lesson for us. Are you called? Do you want to be called?
 - They were ministering to the Lord. Right where they were in Antioch they were ministering. The heart was that their ministry was unto the Lord not MY MINISTRY. TO THE LORD - It isn't about what we get all the time. I believe we are to be gathered to minister unto the Lord when we gather. So we see they were called out from those who were already ministering in a local church. They were not idol then called to fantastic ministry elsewhere. They proved, grew in ministry in the church where they lived. "You cannot minister for Him until you can minister to Him." (Focht)
 - They were Fasting. These were men called because they prayed and fasted which speaks of self denial. These were men of prayer and they relied not on whims but on prayer. Out of prayer and group or corporate prayer the call came. This was then recognized as a divine direction and confirmed by others.
 - The Holy Spirit called them. The Holy Spirit refers to a previous calling. (Acts 9:15) The Holy Spirit called them. They were set apart for the Holy Spirit. The emphasis isn't called to a work but called to the Holy Spirit. (apart for Me & I have called them) You can be assured that the Holy Spirit will have a work for them to do. But they are called to Him not to that.
 - They were Set Apart. You can't really say "yes" to God's call on your life until you can say "no" to things that will keep you from that call. (Guzik)
 - They Fasted and Prayed More. This shows that they submit to His will. Surely there were questions. What did the setting apart look like? What is the process? It begins with fasting, a denial of self, and prayer, a seeking of His purpose.
 - They Laid Hands on Them. The laying on of hands is a public show of agreement, unity and blessing. Those that lay hand on them are affirming the call and support the divine direction.
 - They Sent Them. In this verse they sent them. The next verse says the Holy Spirit sent them. This is very interesting. The Greek in this verse 3, SENT is "apolyo" which means to let go. The Greek in verse 4, SENT is "ekpempo" which means to send. So the church didn't send them out they just let go. It was the Holy Spirit that sent them forth.

Example having children to just be with you

Act 13:4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Act 13:5
Salamis When they reached Salamis, they {began} to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.

- There is no record of instructions of where specifically to go. But they went to:
 - Seleucia - the sea port approx. 16-20 miles west of Antioch.
 - Cyprus - Acts 4:36 instruct us this is where Barnabas is from.
 - Salamis - Was the largest city on Cyprus.
- They proclaimed the Word of God. What is this "Word of God" they preached?
 - John 1:1 & 14 "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" And "*And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*"
 - Revelation 19:10-16 "*Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he *said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it {is} called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes {are} a flame of fire, and on His head {are} many diadems; and He has a name written {on Him} which no one knows except Himself. {He is} clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white {and} clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*
 - **The answer is they preached Jesus.**
- They proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues of the Jews.
- John was with them. This is John Mark Barnabas' cousin (Col 4:10) and this is the same Mark that would later write the Gospel of Mark.

Act 13:6
Paphos When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus,

Act 13:7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

- Barnabas, Saul and John Mark traveled 100 miles to the other end of the island to Paphos.
- They met two people
 - Sergius Paulus - the Proconsul of Cyprus. A Roman appointed governor or military commander ruling over Cyprus.
 - A sorcerer named Bar-Jesus (Elymas) an advisor to Sergio Paulus. He's called FALSE PROPHET.
 - Deut 13:1-5 "*If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him. And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn [you] away from the LORD your God*"
- The proconsul wants to hear this message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God does create divine appointments.

Act 13:8 But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

- But Elymas opposed them.
- Jesus said "*If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."* (John 15:18-20)
- Elymas sought to turn the proconsul away from seeking the Lord. Why do some block other's faith.
 - To keep control / Influence
 - To justify himself that he too has no need for the gospel.

Act 13:9 But Saul, who was also {known as} Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him,
 Act 13:10 and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"

- Saul (Jewish name) also called Paul (Roman name) see verse 1
- Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit sees the phony, he sees the battle line drawn and attacks.
- Paul isn't soft peddling the message. But like Jesus, Paul uses sharp rebukes for people who stand between man and God. You do not see the rebuke towards Sergius Paulus for being drawn away. The rebuke is for the one doing the drawing. Jesus would strongly rebuke not the sinner but the Pharisees, Sadducees or the Scribes that would put obstacles between man and God.
 - Matthew 23:13-15 "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in [yourselves], neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."
- Paul Calls Elymas a fraud, son of a devil and an enemy

Act 13:11 "Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.

- Paul sees the truth. In turn Elymas will not see at all. Paul possibly remembering his Damascus Road experience
- Elymas blinded but unlike Paul we do not see him repenting anywhere in scripture.

Act 13:12 Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

- The Proconsul believed not just what happened but was amazed at the teaching. It is not miracles that bring salvation. It is the teaching of Jesus. (Who He is, What He did, What He will do)
- Are you still amazed at the teaching of the Lord. Amazed with salvation come to man who was hopelessly lost in their sin, but by His Amazing Grace He comes to us to rescue us to grant us a heavenly eternal life with Him which we do not deserve.

Act 13:13 2) Preaching to Jews in the Synagogue vs 13 - 43
 Perga in Pamphylia Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem.



Maps by Gordon Smith <http://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/JBPhillips.htm>

- Paul and his company. This could mean a couple of things:
 - 1) Paul had so influenced some on Cyprus that they joined Paul and Barnabas
 - 2) Paul is mentioned in front of Barnabas taking the lead
- They sailed to Pamphylia. They are not in a new land.
- John Mark leaves. People have speculated about why.
 - He was home sick
 - He saw opposition with Elymas and was uneasy and left
 - He saw the new land and different people and just couldn't continue for fear
 - This area was known for pirates. This area was infested with malaria.

Galatians 4:13 "you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time;" Paul was sick when he arrived in Galatia. Possibly malaria which would affect eyes. Paul spoke about writing in large letters, a sign of poor/damaged eyesight.
 - He saw Paul taking the lead and parted because his cousin was no longer in charge.
- But the Holy Spirit is discrete concerning the details about Marks leaving. The Holy Spirit doesn't reveal to us the why.
- We do know that Paul didn't approve of his leaving and felt he couldn't trust Mark on a second missionary journey. (Acts 15:37-41) We also can see it had to do with an aspect of maturity for later Paul asked for Mark because "He was useful to him in ministry." (2 Timothy 4:11)

Act 13:14 But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

Antioch in Pisidian

- They travel some 250 miles in one verse. We are not given details of time, difficulty or events.
- On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue. They enter just being average folk just to honor God and be there. Yet God has plans.

Act 13:15 After the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it."

- The service at the synagogue isn't like our services. Here in Antioch Pisidian more of a small church feel but the reading of the Law emphasized. Not so much the singing.
- Here a couple of visitors who are welcomed and given place to speak. Definitely not like our churches.
 - Paul and Barnabas' dress may have been more priestly. Tradition taught that men from Levitical line dressed slightly different so that they would be identified so.
 - Or that the synagogue was very open to strangers / visitors speaking.

Act 13:16 Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:

- Paul will address "Men of Israel & God fearers" 3 times
 - verse 16-25 Israel's History
 - verse 26-37 Recent Events (JESUS)
 - verse 38-43 Call For Response
- His address is very much like Stephen's message. (Acts 7) A History Lesson to Jesus
- His address is very much like Peter's on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2) David & Jesus compared in grave
- Same message for Jews and God Fearing Gentiles
- Paul uses this pattern when he preaches until Athens where they are all Greek / Gentiles

Act 13:17 "The God of this people Israel chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it.

Israel's History

Act 13:18 "For a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.

- Paul gives a history that demonstrates God's grace and Israel's transgressions
- God delivers Israel. Israel grumbles in wilderness and God puts up with them.

Act 13:19 "When He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance-- {all of which took} about four hundred and fifty years.

Act 13:20 "After these things He gave {them} judges until Samuel the prophet.

Act 13:21 "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.

- God gave them land and judges. Israel rejects Gods way and desires a King. God Granted.

Act 13:22 "After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.'

- God gave them David who will do all my will. David was not perfect. (But he never changed Gods)

Act 13:23 "From the descendants of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus,

Act 13:24 after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

Act 13:25 "And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not {He.} But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

- God gave them a promise & an announcement. Those in Jerusalem thought possibly John was He
- Interesting here we see John the Baptists attitude emphasized by Paul. Jesus said there was no one greater than John (Matt 11:11)
- Today, we think it harmful to have an attitude of a person being greater or to have a sense of unworthiness. Paul and Jesus commend John the Baptist in his rightful humility towards Jesus in being unworthy before Him. Has our sense of what is harmful or beneficial affected how we approach our Lord today? Do we have a proper humility in our devotion to Jesus?

Act 13:26 "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent.

Recent Events
(Jesus)

- Paul addressed them again, beginning a new direction of thought. Recent events and turning the conversation to Jesus.
- With our conversations this is the harder part, and yet this is the purpose of your conversations with those needing to hear the gospel. We need to have the skill set to turn conversations from whatever (history, politics, economy, sports) to Jesus.
- This will help. This transition will require a "re-address". Something that breaks the current conversation flow towards another direction. We all want it to be smooth. The smoothest transition for us is for the other person to bring up Jesus. But 999 out of 1000 times this will not happen. Because we wait for the best/smoothest transition, we usually don't get around to it. Some "re-addresses may be:
 - "Oh that brings up an interesting point. Jesus said ..."
 - "That reminds me, Jesus..."
 - "___insert name___, I've been wanting to tell you, Jesus..."
- ANNOUNCEMENT: Salvation Has Been Sent

Act 13:27 "For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled {these} by condemning {Him.}

Act 13:28 "And though they found no ground for {putting Him to} death, they asked Pilate that He be executed.

Act 13:29 "When they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb.

- God gave the One whom the prophets foretold even though they read about Him every Sabbath Those in Jerusalem didn't put it together and put him to death
- They had all the signs. They had the prophets and the scripture. They should have known.
- Yet all this was part of the Salvation that was sent.
- Jesus was put to death and laid in a tomb.

Act 13:30 "But God raised Him from the dead;

Act 13:31 and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.

- Repeated through out Scripture we run into the greatest of contrasts. Man's intent and God's plan.

- Genesis 50:20 Joseph trusts God after being mistreated. Scripture shows us God's ultimate purpose and control " *You meant it for evil BUT GOD meant it for good.*"
 - Judges 15:18-19 Samson being exhausted and thirsting after God had used him mightily, Scripture show us God's care in overwhelming conditions " *BUT GOD split the hollow place that is in Lehi so that water came out of it. When he drank, his strength returned and he revived.*"
 - 1 Samuel 23:24 David running from Saul who desired to kill him scripture shows us God doesn't allow us to fall into enemy hands, " *Saul sought him every day, BUT GOD delivered him not into his hand.*"
 - 1 Chronicles 20:15 Jehosaphat grew fearful in battle. Scripture shows us that God fights for us. " *for the battle [is] not yours, BUT GOD's*"
 - Psalm 49:15 shows us that through death will be laid in the grave God will resurrect us " *BUT GOD will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me.*"
 - Psalm 115:2+3 shows us the heathen mock and ask where is God, but God does as He wishes " *Wherefore should the heathen say, Where [is] now their God? BUT OUR GOD [is] in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.*"
 - Luke 12:19+20 a rich man makes himself secure with out God But scripture shows us that God will require a man's soul when it is time " *I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, [and] be merry. BUT GOD said unto him, [Thou] fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee.*"
 - Luke 16:15 Man justifies his sin before men yet God sees a man's heart. " *You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, BUT GOD knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God*"
 - Romans 5:8 shows us God loves us even when we are unlovable. " *BUT GOD commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"
- The Resurrection is the central element in the Gospel. Without a resurrection there is no hope, no salvation and no eternal life.
 - Jesus was dead and in the tomb, BUT GOD raised Him from the dead conquering sin and death.
 - There were many witnesses

Act 13:32 "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,

Act 13:33 that God has fulfilled this {promise} to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.'

- We preach the good news of the promise
- What is the promise?
- 1st that Jesus is raised from the dead

Act 13:34 "{As for the fact} that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY {and} SURE {blessings} OF DAVID.'

Act 13:35 "Therefore He also says in another {Psalm,} 'YOU WILL NOT ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.'

Act 13:36 "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay;

Act 13:37 but He whom God raised did not undergo decay.

Act 13:38 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

Call for
Response

- What is the promise?
- 2nd that through Him we have forgiveness of sins

Act 13:39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

- What is the promise?
- 3rd that who believes is freed (KJV=justifies) from all things. Justification is more than forgiveness. It is as if it has never happened. JUST as IF I'D Never Sinned.
- Earning salvation by our works or effort might win forgiveness but it will never ever grant us justification. Our good my out weigh our bad but it will never ever delete out bad. We could never ever be justified with out grace.
- The law of Moses does not justify. Sin could be atoned for but never ever justified.
- It is interesting that this is in Galatia. In a very short time from this trip Paul will be writing to the

Galatians dealing with the same themes of being justified by grace and not by keeping the law.

Act 13:40 "Therefore take heed, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon {you:}

Act 13:41 'BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH; FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS, A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE, THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.' "

- Ever good sermon requires a response. Here Paul tells the Jews and God Fearers to TAKE HEED
- TAKE HEED means to turn the thoughts or direct the mind to a thing, to consider, contemplate, to look at, to weigh carefully, examine
- Take heed so the warning of the prophets may not come upon you. What warning? That you should scoff, not believe and even worse perish.

- This sermon had History, Truth about man's condition, Testimony of Jesus, Promise and Hope, Presentation of the Gospel, a Call to Respond by Believing, and a Warning Against Refusal.

Act 13:42 As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath.

Act 13:43 Now when {the meeting of} the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.

- The people wanted to hear more.
- Hebrews 13:9 "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For [it is] a good thing that the heart be established with grace" There are many things in our journey as Christians that are wonderful and awe inspiring. But the writer of Hebrews wants our hearts to be not established in the wonderful and awe inspiring but in the GRACE of God first and foremost.
- "Continuing in grace is as important as beginning in grace; we must never leave it as the basic principle of our relationship with God. Far too many only think of grace as the introduction to the Christian life, but God wants grace to remain as the foundation for our life with Him." (GUZIK)

Act 13:44 **3) Turning to the Gentiles** vs 44 - 52

The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord.

- Nearly the whole city. The city of Antioch Pisidian was stirred up to hear the Word of the Lord.

Act 13:45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and {began} contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.

- The Jews had been there for awhile. They had built their synagogue. Paul and Barnabas come in and stir nearly the entire city.
- The Jews opposed Paul and Barnabas not necessarily because of doctrine but because of their pride.
- The pride cause them to be jealous and speak against Paul and Barnabas' teaching.

Act 13:46 Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

- Paul and Barnabas recognize the direction they are to go.
- The Jews repudiate the message of the Gospel (Repudiate = GK 'apotheo' to push away, reject or refuse)
- By pushing away or rejecting the message they judge themselves unworthy of eternal life. Once a person hears the Gospel he and pushes it away, he no longer can stand asking the question "If God being just how could he send someone to hell?" God offered eternal life the rebellious man rejected it and judged himself.
- Paul and Barnabas will turn to the Gentiles.

Act 13:47 "For so the Lord has commanded us, 'I HAVE PLACED YOU AS A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, THAT YOU MAY BRING SALVATION TO THE END OF THE EARTH.' "

Act 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they {began} rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

- The Gentiles heard they can receive salvation they got excited. This message does tear down the wall of division that keeps them at a distance. You bet this messages was Good News.
- The Gentiles were believing and receiving eternal life
- Appointed (ordained) to eternal life. Is it God's choosing / predestination that saves man or is it

man's choice that saves man. The answer is YES! Without God choosing that man can have eternal life man is in a hopeless state. Impossible to be saved. God must first extend grace. Likewise man must receive this grace. Without his receiving this grace is impossible to be saved. Man cannot reject God's grace and be saved.

- Deuteronomy 30:19 " I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life"
- John 1:11-13 " He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."
Look at the order of things
1) He came 2) Man Receives or Rejects (believe) 3) God gives right 4) Born of God

Act 13:49 And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.

- The word of the Lord (Message of Jesus the Messiah) spread

Act 13:50 But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

Act 13:51 But they shook off the dust of their feet {in protest} against them and went to Iconium.

- The jealous Jews were still working against the message.
- They are creative in their persecution. (Inciting the devout women) I am not sure what effect this would have but it is interesting that the enemy will stir up strife or opposition from all sorts of places. Even places unexpected. Be on your guard.
- They shake the dust off. They decide to move on. Sometimes it is time to just move on.
- Iconium is 50 miles away from Antioch.

Act 13:52 And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

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