

**"The First Missionary Journey Continues"**

**Part 9**

**Acts 13:13-14:28**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Acts we came to the end of Paul's message in Acts 13. He was preaching to both Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue at Antioch. Paul ended his message with a warning to his listeners about rejecting the Gospel.

**Notice Acts 13:41-42**

Paul referenced Habakkuk's prophecy and his warning to the Jews of the coming Babylonian captivity. They ignored the prophets and were taken in captivity for 70 years. The Jews Paul was speaking faced even a greater danger and that was if they rejected the Gospel and died in their sins they would be eternally lost. When Paul ended his message there were multiple reactions.

**Notice Acts 13:43-44**

Many Jews and Gentiles chose to follow Paul and Barnabas and other Gentiles requested that the message be preached to them the next Sabbath. There were many Jews however who did not believe and the next Sabbath they are going attempt to silence Paul and Barnabas.

**"The Persecution"**

**Notice Acts 13:44**

On the next Sabbath almost, the entire city came to hear the message of the Gospel. This was the result of those who believed going about all week and sharing with others what Paul had preached. This must have been an open-air message because the synagogue probably would not hold the entire city. Notice the history given by Whitcomb.

*"Many in England and in America rejected the open-air messages of George Whitefield, and many others loved his peaching. Between the two he attracted huge crowds. In 1739 he preached an open-air message in Philadelphia. Ben Franklin was not very interested in hearing the gospel, but he was fascinated by Whitefield's oratory skills. Franklin also made a profit by selling Whitefield's sermons. One evening Whitefield preached from the courthouse steps to a huge crowd which had gathered. Franklin, instead of paying attention to the sermon, decided he would do a mathematical calculation to determine how many people could hear Whitefield's voice. He walked backwards until he reached the point where he could no longer hear the preacher distinctly. He then imagined a semicircle with this distance as the radius, and the whole semicircle filled with auditors. He calculated*

*that Whitefield could have preached to 30,000 people who would all be within hearing range of his voice. This agreed with newspaper reports that Franklin had read of Whitefield preaching to 25,000 people in the open fields. Yet, how much better it would have been for his soul if Ben Franklin had listened intently to the gospel instead of concentrating on this scientific experiment."*

**Application:**

We need to be reminded that when we are talking there are people who hear our voices and we are completely unaware that they are listening. With this said let us be sure our words glorify God. Too many believers may be in a restaurant or a store and they are heard spreading gossip instead of the Truth of God.

**James 3:1-10**

*My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.*

*<sup>2</sup> For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*

*<sup>3</sup> Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.*

*<sup>4</sup> Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.*

*<sup>5</sup> Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!*

*<sup>6</sup> And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

*<sup>7</sup> For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:*

*<sup>8</sup> But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

*<sup>9</sup> Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.*

<sup>10</sup> *Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*

**Colossians 4:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*

**Proverbs 21:23**

<sup>23</sup> *Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.*

Let our prayers be as those of the Psalmist.

**Psalm 19:14**

<sup>14</sup> *Let the words of my mouth,* and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

**Notice Acts 13:45**

The Jews despised it when the city came to listen to Paul and Barnabas. They were envious of the Gentiles and they did their best to discredit Paul's message. Paul recorded something in Romans 11 that fits into this scene at Antioch.

**Romans 11:1, 11-15**

*I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

<sup>11</sup> *I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.*

<sup>12</sup> *Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?*

<sup>13</sup> *For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:*

<sup>14</sup> *If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.*

<sup>15</sup> *For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?*

The end of verse 18 is pointing to the Kingdom when the nation will accept Jesus Christ and He will establish His Kingdom and all Israel will be saved. The salvation of the Gentiles is to provoke the Jews to jealousy and bring some of them to Jesus Christ. The Jews in Antioch were upset because the Gentiles were coming to Jesus Christ and the Kingdom had not yet come. They were looking for the Kingdom and so, in their envy they attacked Paul's message and they really attacked Jesus Christ by blaspheming Him. They considered Jesus to be an imposter and a liar. So, they tried to turn the Gentiles away from the message of the Gospel. If these Jews died in their sin, can you imagine their judgment?

**Matthew 18:6-9**

*<sup>6</sup> But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.*

*<sup>7</sup> Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!*

*<sup>8</sup> Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.*

*<sup>9</sup> And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.*

**Notice Acts 13:46**

Paul and Barnabas become very bold and stood for the Truth that was proclaimed. The Gospel had been preached to the Jews first and rejected so now it would go to the Gentiles. The Jews had judged themselves unworthy of eternal life which means they did not want the offer that had been extended to them.

**Notice Acts 13:47**

Paul and Barnabas quote from Isaiah here.

**Isaiah 42:6-7**

*<sup>6</sup> I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;*

*<sup>7</sup> To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.*

The nation of Israel was to be a light to the Gentiles from the time the nation was started but they failed miserably. One of the saddest pictures of their failure was in a prophet named Jonah. As time progressed the nation of Israel lost sight of how they were to be a light to the Gentile world. The Israelites were never to be the only and final target of God's love. Naomi was another sad picture of what the nation was to be.

**Ruth 1:7-11**

*<sup>7</sup> Wherefore she went forth out of the place where she was, and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah.*

*<sup>8</sup> And Naomi said unto her two daughters in law, Go, return each to her mother's house: the LORD deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me.*

*<sup>9</sup> The LORD grant you that ye may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband. Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voice, and wept.*

*<sup>10</sup> And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people.*

*<sup>11</sup> And Naomi said, Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands?*

**Conclusion:**

We too are called to be lights to a lost world.

**Matthew 5:14-16**

*<sup>14</sup> Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.*

*<sup>15</sup> Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.*

*<sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

How are we doing as the light of the world?