

"The First Missionary Journey Continues"

Part 11

Acts 13:13-14:28

Introduction: In our last study we closed out Acts 13 and at the end of chapter 13 Paul and Barnabas faced persecution because the unbelieving Jews in Antioch stirred up trouble against them.

Notice Acts 13:50-52

They shook the dust from their feet which was a way of saying, "We have shared the Truth of the Gospel with you but you have rejected it so we are finished here!" In verse 52 we gain insight into the lives of those who were saved in Antioch. Those who were saved were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost. They were so thankful that as Gentiles God offered the forgiveness of sin to them as well as the Jews. Let us remember how the Gentiles were viewed before Jesus went to the cross.

Ephesians 2:11-13

¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

As Paul and Barnabas left Antioch they did not quit and go back home but instead they moved on to the next city which was Iconium.

"Continued Persecution"

Part 1

Notice Acts 14:1

When Paul and Barnabas arrived at Iconium they went to the Jewish synagogue and preached the Gospel to the Jews first. There is a verse in the previous chapter that we need to revisit to make something clear.

Acts 13:46

⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

When they stated that they were turning to the Gentiles they did not mean they would not share the Gospel with the Jews again. We know this because in Iconium they went right to the synagogue to preach. In Acts 13 they were simply stating that because the Jews rejected the Gospel, they would take the good news to the Gentiles who were eager to listen and believe. When they preached at the synagogue in Iconium some Jews and some Gentiles believed and were saved.

Notice Acts 14:2

It did not take long for Satanic opposition to show up when the Gospel was preached. When Luke writes that these unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren, he was saying that they poisoned the minds of the believers. As soon as the church began to grow in this city Satan came with a false teaching to pollute the minds of these new believers.

Now let me show you what was happening here. This was one of the churches in the region of Galatia. Let us notice what Paul wrote in Galatians.

Galatians 1:6-9

⁶ I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

⁷ Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

⁸ But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

⁹ As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

The "other gospel" that was brought in came from the unbelieving Jews and they taught that salvation was by keep the Law. We see it in other verses from the letter to the Galatians.

Galatians 2:16-21

¹⁶ *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*

¹⁷ *But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.*

¹⁸ *For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor.*

¹⁹ *For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.*

²⁰ *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

²¹ *I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.*

Galatians 3:1-3

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

² *This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

³ *Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?*

This heresy would not get rooted in until later when reports would get back to Paul after he had left these believers but here in Acts 14 it is the start of it. Let us notice how Paul and Barnabas handled this.

Notice Acts 14:3

They stayed in Iconium for an extended period of time and taught the Truth to these believers. Let us notice closely that they gave testimony unto the word of his grace. They preached and they taught on the grace of God because we are saved by grace, we are kept by grace, and we shall one day reach a state of perfection by grace.

Romans 5:21

²¹ *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Application:

Let us not miss a particularly important point in all of this. Paul and Barnabas taught the Truth in order to counter the false teaching that was being taught to the believers. Let us never forget that no matter what opposition and trials come into this church we can never abandon the teaching of the Truth of God's Word. This is exactly why we give so much time to the Bible in our services. It is the Truth that sets people free. It is not stories and entertainment but Truth.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

² **Preach the word**; *be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.*

³ *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

⁴ *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

⁵ *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

Before we move on there is yet something else to notice.

Notice Acts 14:3 again.

Paul and Barnabas chose to stay to be sure the Truth was known. In this we can see the dedication of Paul when we again look at the verses in Galatians.

Galatians 4:13-14

¹³ **Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.**

¹⁴ *And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.*

When Paul came to the churches at Galatia he was battling with some kind of illness, but he did not use the sickness as an excuse to quit. Paul worked through his sickness and the churches received him as an angel and even as Jesus Himself. This brings to mind something that Paul penned to Timothy.

2 Timothy 2:3, 10

³ *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

¹⁰ *Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*

Paul knew that people MUST hear the Gospel and he would not allow anything to deter him in sharing the Gospel. I wonder how much of a difference the church could make today if only half of this determination existed within us.

Notice Acts 14:3 again.

God permitted Paul and Barnabas to conduct miracles in Iconium. These were to show the authenticity of the message they were preaching.

Notice Acts 14:4

Here we see that the city was divided. Some believed and so did not. How could some not believe when these miracles were performed?

Deuteronomy 13:1-5

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,

² *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;*

³ *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.*

⁴ *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.*

⁵ *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, which brought you out of the land of*

Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the LORD thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

The Jews knew that miracles alone did not confirm that a prophet was from God. The message had to align with God's Word. Paul and Barnabas' miracles were authentic and so was their message but the Jews did not believe the message to be true and therefore they rejected it.

Application/Conclusion:

Our world is moving at a very rapid pace toward the Tribulation which will be a time of unprecedented deception.

Matthew 24:23-24

²³ Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

²⁴ For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

We are seeing this deception coming about today and as this world gets closer to the Tribulation the deception will increase. Keep in mind that Satan can and will perform miracles. DO NOT be caught up in miracles and wonders. Be sure to examine the message very closely. If the message is not Biblical nothing else matters.

Revelation 13:11-14

¹¹ And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.