

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral

Lesson 29 “The Outpouring in Galatia Continues”

I. Introduction - We have been studying through *Acts* and how the gospel went viral through various revivals in the first century throughout the book of *Acts*. This is what turned the world right side up in a generation.

A. We are currently looking in *Acts 13* at Paul’s first missionary trip. Last week we studied how he and Barnabas began to take the gospel to Galatia (modern day Turkey).

1. There was a Great Awakening among the Gentiles, but the vast majority of the Jews rejected the message. Paul and Barnabas then said they were going to turn to or focus on the Gentiles because the Jews had rejected the gospel.

B. Today we are going to look at how the Outpouring of the Spirit in Galatia continued and stretched into Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. We’ll see two main themes today:

1. The introduction of signs and wonders. There were no signs and wonders when Paul went to Antioch of Pisidia. This was unusual because everywhere in *Acts* signs and wonders were the dinner bell that drew people to the gospel.
2. The persecution of Paul increased when signs and wonders were introduced.

II. The Outpouring in Galatia Continues

A. *Acts 13:42-52* Blessing and Persecution in Antioch

1. These verses again show us how the Gentiles embraced and hungered for the grace message and the religious folks rejected it. One begged Paul for more while the other wanted to get rid of him.
2. The whole city came out the next week. Paul and Barnabas were about to experience a revival and riot. They drew a crowd of those who were hungry and those who were full of envy and hatred.
3. The religious Jews stirred up prominent people in the city to banish Paul and Barnabas. When an outpouring of the spirit hits, someone is getting cast out... either the devil or you if people don’t receive. This doesn’t mean the word isn’t working, it is. God gives people the free will to accept or reject the message.
4. The apostles then did what Jesus commanded in *Matthew 10* when people rejected the message. They shook the dust off their feet and went to another city.
 - a. The gesture was **to show the people that they were making a wrong choice**. The opportunity to choose Christ might not present itself again.
 - b. In doing this, Paul and Barnabas are treating the city as if they were a God-rejecting Gentile city. Jews often did this when they left Gentile cities. This is what Paul is communicating to the Jews by doing this.

5. Read John Wesley journal from late 1700's.

B. Acts 14:1-5 Violence in Iconic

1. Paul again begins his ministry in the synagogue. The Jews stirred up the Gentiles. Paul should have stayed in his lane.
2. The persecution ramps up after God begins to perform signs and wonders through the hands of the apostles.
3. A violent attempt was made on Paul's life. **2 Timothy 3:10-12**. Whatever happened must have been unusually bad for him to write to Timothy about it.

C. Acts 14:6-18 The Unusual Response in Lystra

1. **Verses 8-10** Paul saw a crippled man who had faith to be healed. **Faith can be seen!** Example of Pastor Bill Johnson who learned to preach to those who had faith in the room. Those people pull the anointing out of you and it becomes infectious to others. Examples of words of knowledge and healing. It's important to respond because it creates faith in the room.
2. **Verses 11-13** This miracle provoked a response. The people thought the Apostles were gods. Hermes means herald. This is what they called Paul because he talked a lot. They thought Barnabas was Zeus (Zeus had great power).
3. This happens today when someone begins to pray for the sick and commands the power of God to flow. There are people that think folks who pray this way think they are Gods because we speak to things and command them to respond.
 - a. I don't think I'm a God. **Mark 16:17-18** Jesus said that, I didn't.
 - b. It's not arrogant to believe God wants to do the miraculous through you. It's arrogant to believe He doesn't because His word says He does.
4. The point is we need the full manifestation of God's power, which will provoke a response. We just need to realize it's His power that flows through us

D. Acts 14:14-20 The Apostle's Response

1. The Apostles rejected the praise they were given and directed it to the Lord. They used the miraculous to that drew people's attention to point people to Jesus. This is how we stay safe with the message of signs and wonders.
2. Paul was stoned and left for dead. Persecution increased!

III. Conclusion - We need the outpouring of the spirit to fulfill the Great Commission. It was commanded in **Mark 16**. The Supernatural provokes a response. We must be prepared for a positive response or a negative response and depend on the Holy Spirit to bring us through.

A. Call Up Prayer Team and pray closing prayer (for the miraculous and boldness).