



## ACTS

### THE GREAT ADVENTURE

### ~SUPERNATURAL~

We pick up where we left off last week in Acts 13

<sup>44</sup> *The following week almost the entire city turned out to hear them preach the word of the Lord.*

<sup>45</sup> *But when some of the Jews saw the crowds, they were jealous; so they slandered Paul and argued against whatever he said. <sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and declared, "It was necessary that we first preach the word of God to you Jews<sup>1</sup>. But since you have rejected it and judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we will offer it to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For the Lord gave us this command when he said, 'I have made you a light to the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the farthest corners of the earth.'" <sup>48</sup> When the Gentiles heard this, they were very glad and thanked the Lord for his message; and all who were chosen for eternal life became believers. <sup>49</sup> So the Lord's message spread throughout that region. <sup>50</sup> Then the Jews stirred up the influential religious women and the leaders of the city, and they incited a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town. <sup>51</sup> So they shook the dust from their feet as a sign of rejection and went to the town of Iconium. <sup>52</sup> And the believers were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

Imagine going into Jewish communities today intent on preaching the gospel. It's interesting isn't it? We are sent to the corners of the Earth so that people can hear the word of God and yet we don't see much (if any) sending of the gospel into Skokie, IL.

Why don't we invest more time in the Jewish community evangelizing? Don't the Jews need Jesus in order to be saved?

Verses 48 through 49 tell us the gospel message spread throughout the region. If you think about it, had the message been accepted by the Jews it perhaps might have been kept as their privileged secret yet it was the Gentiles that willingly accepted the offer. There is nothing like a new believer is there? For 2000 years the Jews believed they faced Christian oppression of Judaism and the Jewish people, culminating in Auschwitz. Jews have faced continual attempts to exterminate them. The gospel of Jesus Christ is Good News for Jewish people, too though as it is all of humanity. When we say (quoting Paul, himself a Hebrew) that the gospel is "first for the Jew," we mean it as an honor to Jewish people, who, after all, were the first followers of Jesus.

What is it about a new believer that specially equips them with great potential for spreading the gospel?

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<sup>1</sup> Since Paul was a Jew and Christ came to save the Jews, the message obviously went to them first. Everywhere that Paul traveled he first went to the synagogue. When they threw him out then he went to the Gentiles.

A new believer is usually on fire and can't wait to tell others so it should come as no surprise that the Good News spread throughout the region in this particular mission of Paul and Barnabas.

#### ACTS 14

*<sup>1</sup> The same thing happened in Iconium. Paul and Barnabas went to the Jewish synagogue and preached with such power that a great number of both Jews and Greeks became believers. <sup>2</sup> Some of the Jews, however, spurned God's message and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against Paul and Barnabas. <sup>3</sup> But the apostles stayed there a long time, preaching boldly about the grace of the Lord. And the Lord proved their message was true by giving them power to do miraculous signs and wonders. <sup>4</sup> But the people of the town were divided in their opinion about them. Some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. <sup>5</sup> Then a mob of Gentiles and Jews, along with their leaders, decided to attack and stone them. <sup>6</sup> When the apostles learned of it, they fled to the region of Lycaonia—to the towns of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding area. <sup>7</sup> And there they preached the Good News.*

Paul and Barnabas preached with such power. Clearly the Holy Spirit was working through them. God pulled out all the stops in this missionary journey by not leaving His message to mere human "chance" but rather flawless tactical initiative. Not only that but the audience of Jews and Gentiles were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit and to prove the message was true, God gave Paul and Barnabas supernatural power to do miraculous signs and wonders. God didn't leave anything to chance; He dotted every "I" and crossed every "T." Once again the gospel advances in the midst of stone-throwing...the believers once again scattered. A mob of Gentiles and Jews along with their leaders set out to attack Paul and Barnabas. By this time however, their usefulness to God was fulfilled at this place. They simply "got out of Dodge" fleeing to the towns of Lystra and Derbe where they preached the Good News.

### Bringing it Home

Pastor Rob: "There is nothing that compares to a supernatural life that is lived with a sense of being 'filled' with joy and the Holy Spirit." The only way we can expect to press on in the face of constant ongoing opposition (and if you are furthering the Kingdom you will constantly face opposition) is to live life filled with the Holy Spirit. The thing about filling any vessel though, IT MUST FIRST BE EMPTIED. Preaching and teaching with anointing, experiencing miracles that move the mission forward should be ANTICIPATED by any would be Spirit-filled minister/ministry. If one is not experiencing this dynamic they might do well to ask themselves what's already in their vessel or bucket that is taking up too much room and/or what is causing them to otherwise resist or grieve a supernatural filling of the Spirit? Is it fear, lack of faith, lack of a proper sense of expectation? What is it?

