

Acts 13:41-52

- **THE PLAN OF GOD...**

- Rebellious people...

- When Paul entered the Synagogue in Pisidia - he was asked if he had something to share...
 - He did NOT hesitate - but stood up and gave a HISTORY lesson...
 - Israel had ALWAYS been rebellious - from the FORTY years in the wilderness...
 - To the FOUR hundred years of the Judges - to the rejecting God and asking for a KING!

- Right solution...

- John the Baptist came baptizing - commanding the people to REPENT...
 - Yet the people did NOT know Jesus - because they did NOT know the Word [prophets]
 - Instead they crucified Christ - but God raised Him from the dead...
 - Fulfilling all of the PROPHECIES concerning the Messiah...
 - God gave the PROMISE - He would send His SON - **Psalms 2:7**
 - And those who LISTENED to Him - would be given GRACE by FAITH - **Isaiah 55:3**
 - Because God showed through Jesus that DEATH is not the end - **Psalms 16:10**
 - Therefore - only through Jesus [not the Law] can we be FORGIVEN...
 - Paul told those listening to BEWARE - lest they miss the WORK of God - **Habakkuk 1:5**

- **1ST - WORK OF GOD... vs. 42-43**

- 1st - Spirit of God... vs. 42

- After church...
 - When the Jews went out of the synagogue.
 - The Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath!
 - When PAUL was done preaching His message...
 - The people filed out of the SYNAGOGUE [the service was over]
 - But as THEY left - some BEGGED Paul to come back the next week...
 - BEGGED [παρακαλέω] - the same root word used to describe the Holy Spirit - **John 14:16**
 - The message [Spirit] had stirred THEIR hearts - and they wanted to hear MORE!
 - Gentiles...
 - **Habakkuk 1:5** - "Look among the nations [ἔθνη] and watch - be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days Which you would not believe."
 - There is some textual discrepancy as to WHO these people were...
 - In the TR [Textus Receptus] - we are told it was GENTILES [ἔθνοες]
 - Yet the word is missing from many other manuscripts [MGNT]
 - But considering how Paul concluded his message - GENTILES seems to fit best - **Acts 13:41**
 - Paul was NOT preaching to the GENTILES - but they were LISTENING...

- And they were VERY interested in hearing more about Jesus!
- We NEVER know who might be LISTENING when we talk about Jesus...
- We NEVER know who is WATCHING as we live our lives for Him...
- We might be surprised when a STRANGER comes and asks [παρακαλέω] to hear more...
- Because of what we are SAYING and DOING - the Spirit stirs their heart!

○ 2nd - Grace of God... vs. 43

▪ Following... vs. 43

- Now when the congregation had broken up.
- Many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas!
- Also after the SYNAGOGUE had been dismissed...
- JEWS and devout [σέβω] PROSELYTES [gentiles who converted to Judaism]
- They walked down the road with Paul and Barnabas [asking more questions]
- Showing us that MANY of them [synagogue] also wanted to hear MORE!

▪ Abide...

- Speaking to them - persuaded them to continue in the grace of God!
- What Paul and Barnabas kept saying [present] - trying to convince [imperfect] them...
- Was that they needed to [present] ABIDE [ἐπιμένω] in the GRACE [χάρις] of God...
- This was a VERY important message to give to these JEWS and PROSELYTES...
- Because they had always been taught - God wanted them to follow the LAW...
- And that showing up for CHURCH every week - made them a GOOD person!
- People come to church thinking that somehow CHURCH is the point...
- We can CHECK off of our list CHURCH on Sunday...
- We did what God wanted - and now we can leave - and go out the rest of our week!
- But the reason why we are here is to be CONVINCED...
- That what we need to do is CONTINUALLY [present] ABIDE in GRACE...
- ABIDE [μένω] - to CLING to GRACE as if our life depended on it - **John 15:4**
- GRACE [χάρις] - means the GIFT of God..
- What GIFT does God give to us - Jesus to save us from our sins...
- And the HOLY Spirit - to have the POWER [δύναμις] to live our life VICTORIOUSLY - **Acts 1:8**

● 2ND - JEALOUSLY OF MEN... vs. 44-47

○ 1st - Multitudes... vs. 44-45

▪ Whole city... vs. 44

- On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God!
- When the NEXT Saturday [Sabbath] came around...
- Word of mouth had SPREAD about the teaching the previous week...
- In a city that is estimated to have around FIFTEEN thousand people in it...
- Almost ALL [πᾶς] of them [Jew and Gentile] came out to hear the Word of God!
- NOTE - the Jews had been READING [ἀνάγνωσις] the Word for YEARS - **Acts 13:15**
- But they had been giving people the LAW - so most were NOT interested...
- Paul was different - he gave them GRACE - and that got them excited!
- Look around on an average Sunday - how many people come to CHURCH...
- It goes without saying that it is NOT most of the city...
- Most people STAY home - SLEEP in - or go to the MALL...
- Because while many churches READ the word - they tend to give RULES...
- And RULES do NOT lead to revival...

- What people NEED to hear is the GOSPEL - how much God loves them...
- When that message is PREACHED - the people will come!
- Envy... vs. 45
 - But when the Jews saw the multitudes they were filled with envy!
 - When the JEWS saw how most of the CITY showed up...
 - Rather than being EXCITED to see MULTITUDES coming to hear the WORD...
 - Instead they became [passive] JEALOUS [ζήλος] - like boiling water...
 - Because what they had FAILED to do over MANY years [reach the multitudes]
 - Paul managed to do in a single WEEK - though the message of GRACE!
 - It is easy to get JEALOUS - when God is working through OTHERS...
 - We want to be the ones who get the GLORY...
 - But we would be far wiser to ask - WHY is God using others and NOT us...
 - Because it is NOT about the messenger - it is a question of the MESSAGE!
- Blasphemy... vs. 45
 - Contradicting and blaspheming - they opposed the things spoken by Paul!
 - The JEALOUSLY of the JEWS - led them to CONTRADICT [imperfect] what Paul was saying...
 - CONTRADICT [ἀντιλέγω] - to speak against [ἀντί] the WORD [λόγος]
 - As a RESULT - they were [present] BLASPHEMING - speaking evil about the work of God...
 - Rather than HUMBLY look at what they were doing WRONG [teaching the LAW]
 - They PROUDLY chose to try and STOP what Paul was doing RIGHT [teaching grace]
 - And the result was they became ANTI God [Word] - enemies of the Christ!
 - When God began to pour out His Spirit in the late 1960s [Jesus revolution]
 - Not caring WHO came to church - WHAT they were wearing - or HOW sinful they had been...
 - Instead just LOVING those who walked in - giving them the GRACE of God...
 - Thousands poured into the CHURCH - countless were getting BAPTIZED...
 - But rather than rejoice - MANY churches went on the offensive...
 - Because it was easier to ATTACK - than reflect on why their churches were EMPTY!
- 2nd - Keep going... vs. 46-47
 - Jews First... vs. 46
 - Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said:
 - It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first!
 - When Paul and Barnabas saw the JEALOUSLY of the Jews...
 - They did NOT hold back their WORDS - they spoke BOLDLY [παρρησιάζομαι]
 - It was [imperfect] required for them to share the Word of God with the Jews FIRST...
 - Because the LAW [Old Testament] had been given to them!
 - The Bible - is a VERY Jewish book...
 - Beginning with Abraham - the whole Old Testament follows only ONE nation [Israel]
 - All of the PROPHETS - all of the KINGS - even all of the APOSTLES were Jews...
 - Therefore - it was inevitable that they were the FIRST to hear the Good News...
 - But it was NEVER meant to stop there - it was meant to SPREAD!
 - **Romans 1:16** - "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ - for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes - for the Jew FIRST and also for [everyone else]."
 - We might NOT be called to share the Gospel with people in FAR away countries...
 - But we can share the GOOD news with our NEIGHBOR...
 - And as they share passes it on to others - it ends up spreading across the whole world!

- Rejection... vs. 46
 - But since you reject it - and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life.
 - Behold - we turn to the Gentiles!
 - NOW - since [indicative] the Jews THRUST away [ἀπωθέω] the message of GRACE...
 - JUDGING [κρίνω] that they were NOT worthy of ETERNAL life...
 - Their REJECTION - made [passive] Paul turn to the GENTILES...
 - But this does NOT mean that God has REJECTED the Jews!
 - Paul would go on to talk about the OLIVE tree [Nation of Israel]
 - Some branches were broken off because they did NOT have faith...
 - And we [gentiles] were grafted into the Olive tree by FAITH...
 - Not to REPLACE the Jews - but to make them JEALOUS to come back to God!
 - **Romans 11:11** - "[Has Israel] stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall - to provoke them to jealousy - salvation has come to the Gentiles."
 - Just as God has NOT given up on Israel [sun and waves] - **Jeremiah 31:35**
 - He also does NOT give up on us - He is always working to make us JEALOUS for Him!
- Ends of the earth... vs. 47
 - For so the Lord has commanded us: I have set you as a light to the Gentiles.
 - That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth!
 - Paul understood the PLAN of God given in His Word - **Isaiah 49:6**
 - Jesus had come to cause [hiphil] the TRIBES of Jacob [sinful] to come back [שוב] to Him...
 - But He also wanted Jesus to be the LIGHT [אור] to the NATIONS [גוים]
 - That He could bring SALVATION [ישועה] - to the WHOLE earth!
 - NOT everyone is going to receive the message of the Gospel...
 - But there REJECTION does not stop the work - it just causes [passive] us to keep moving...
 - There are still COUNTLESS people who have NOT yet heard...
 - So if ONE person says NO - go and tell someone ELSE!
- 3RD - THE CHOICE... vs. 48-52
 - 1st - Glad... vs. 48-49
 - Still room... vs. 48
 - Now when the Gentiles heard this they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord!
 - When the GENTILES [ἔθνος] heard that they could be SAVED...
 - They were CONTINUALLY [imperfect] filled with JOY...
 - And CONTINUALLY [imperfect] gave GLORY to the Word of the MASTER [κύριος]!
 - Imagine a new restaurant opens up in Bacolod [very popular]
 - We show up hoping to get a seat - but it is all BOOKED...
 - Then at the last minute - the waiter tells us - there is still room for us...
 - We are FILLED with JOY - and so THANKFUL when we hear his words!
 - The amazing news is that there is ALWAYS room in heaven...
 - We do NOT have to worry about it being TOO full [New Jerusalem] - **Revelation 21:16**
 - All we have to do is ACCEPT the invitation to come!
 - Appointed... vs. 48
 - As many as had been appointed to eternal life believed!
 - As many Gentiles as were [passive] APPOINTED to eternal life - believed [active]
 - APPOINTED [τάσσω] - carries to idea of being PLACED there beforehand!
 - **Ephesians 1:4-5** - "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world."

- This hits on a potentially confusing TRUTH regarding our salvation...
- Those who are saved - are CHOSEN [ἐκλεκτός] by God - **I Peter 1:2**
- But the question we have to ask is HOW does God chose!
- **Romans 8:29** – “For whom He foreknew - He also predestined.”
- FOREKNOWLEDGE [πρόγνωσις] – to KNOW beforehand...
- God is ETERNAL - meaning He has no beginning or end - **Revelation 1:8**
- It does NOT mean God has an endless amount of TIME - it means God is outside of TIME...
- God sees ALL of time – from Genesis to Revelation ALL at once!
- **Isaiah 46:10** - “Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done...”
- Since God sees EVERYTHING - He knows exactly who will believe in Jesus...
- God knows our CHOICE - before we ever make it...
- He then CHOOSES - those who He knows will CHOOSE Him...
- If we WANT to go to HEAVEN – all we have to do is CHOOSE Jesus...
- And we will find He CHOSE us before the world ever began!
- Spreading... vs. 49
 - And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region!
 - The REJECTION of some of the JEWS - and their BLASPHEMOUS words...
 - Did NOT stop the Gospel - just the opposite - it caused it to SPREAD...
 - Because people wanted to know what had gotten the Jews so UPSET...
 - CONTROVERSY is powerful - it moves like a wildfire!
 - There was recently an assassination in the USA [Charlie Kirk]
 - But rather than it STOPPING the work of God...
 - As many as one hundred MILLION watched his memorial service...
 - He reached more people in his DEATH - then he might have ever in LIFE!
 - God is going to use ALL things to get His work done...
 - Even people attacking the WORD of the Lord - will NOT slow the work down...
 - Because God uses ALL things for the good - **Romans 8:28**
- 2nd - Mad... vs. 50-51
 - Rejection... vs. 50
 - But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city.
 - [They] raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their region!
 - The JEWS found a way to get rid of Paul and Barnabas...
 - They STIRRED up some of the DEVOUT [σεβω] women in the Synagogue...
 - These might have been PROSELYTES who were well connected...
 - They got the LEADERS [πρωτος] of the city [husbands?] to turn on Paul and Barnabas...
 - And that PERSECUTION caused them to LEAVE the area!
 - When Job lost EVERYTHING [money - family - health]
 - His wife came to him and told him to CURSE his God and DIE - **Job 2:9**
 - What is amazing – this is the SECOND time we read this - **Job 2:3**
 - Meaning Job was NOT hearing from his wife - it was SATAN speaking through His wife!
 - We need to be CAREFUL what we let come out of our mouths...
 - We can be a TOOL of SATAN – used to sow divisiveness and discouragement...
 - Or we can be a TOOL that is used by God to bring GRACE and SALVATION!
 - Dust... vs. 51
 - But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and came to Iconium!

- Paul and Barnabas SHOOK the dust of Antioch from their feet...
 - They were NOT disappointed - or surprised by the HARD hearts...
 - Because this is EXACTLY what Jesus had said would happen!
 - **Matthew 10:14** - "Whoever will not receive you nor hear your words - when you depart from that house or city - shake off the dust from your feet."
 - It is NOT our responsibility to convince people they need Jesus...
 - We are only commanded to go and give them the CHOICE - **Matthew 28:19**
 - And for those who REJECT - we simply kick off the dust - and keep going!
- 3rd - Filled... vs. 52
- No leader...
 - This would seem to present a HUGE problem...
 - Paul and Barnabas left the area - so WHO would continue to teach the people...
 - It would seem like they were left as SHEEP without a SHEPHERD [pastor]!
 - The Spirit...
 - [But] the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit!
 - BUT [δέ] the DISCIPLES [μαθητῆς] who were left behind were NOT alone...
 - They were continually [imperfect] FILLED with JOY...
 - Because they were continually [imperfect] FILLED with the HOLY Spirit...
 - The lack of leadership likely worked in their FAVOR...
 - Rather than looking to a MAN - they were left to depend on the Lord!
 - **John 16:7** - "It is to your advantage that I go away for if I do not go away - the Helper will not come to you - but if I depart I will send Him to you."
 - Jesus told the DISCIPLES they would receive POWER when the SPIRIT came upon them...
 - But FIRST Jesus had to leave - only then could He send the Holy Spirit...
 - Not that the Holy Spirit was NOT there - He was in them - **John 20:22**
 - The problem the DISCIPLES did NOT see their need for the SPIRIT...
 - Jesus had to get out of the way - so they would step out in faith!
 - God wants to do a WORK - there is a world that needs to KNOW the message of GRACE...
 - But we KNOW that the work is NOT easy - people will REJECT the Gospel...
 - So it is easier to just let OTHERS do the work...
 - But God wants to USE us - He wants to FILL us with His SPIRIT...
 - And let us experience the JOY of seeing people come to the Lord!