

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
November 14, 2021
Acts 13:42-14:28 “Enduring Faith”

I. Introduction

Read: Act 13:1-3

† This is the exemplar call for Missionaries...**The Holy Spirit makes the call...the heart has already been prepared and then the Holy Spirit gives the direction.**

† Fulfilling the great commission of Matt 28 & Acts 1...

† **And so...this first missionary journey continues:** But it is a HARD Road. It will take great determination, perseverance, patience and dedication. **Are these attributes we possess?**

† **And as we pick up in v.42, we remember that Paul is in Antioch in Pisidia and has just finished his first recorded sermon with a warning about not receiving Jesus as Lord...Act 13:40-41** Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; 41 Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

II. To the Gentiles

Act 13:42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

† **I shared last week that Paul ALWAYS shared the gospel with the Jews first...**

Act 13:43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

† **Paul and Barnabas persuaded those caught up in legalism to continue in the grace of God and not continue living under the “LAW”:** John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but **grace and truth** came by Jesus Christ.

Act 13:44-47 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with **envy (envy is simply covetousness for what another possesses – in this case, the crowds were following Paul and the Jews wanted them to follow Judaism)**, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. 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. 47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. **(Paul is quoting from Isa 49:5-6)**

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- † **To the Jews:** Because you judge yourselves "UNWORTHY" of Everlasting Life...we turn to the Gentiles.
- † Today, many people simply think they don't need everlasting life (it IS THE AGE OF DELUSION) or they think it is too simple. Or...they think truth is relative to what they feel...feelings become the "Great Calibration Point" instead of reality, facts and history.
- † But the sobering reality is shared with us by Paul in Rom 1:18, 25 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **hold the truth in unrighteousness**; 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Act 13:48-49 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

- † The natural response to the goodness of God is rejoicing, gladness and REPENTANCE (Turning to God – Rom 2:4). The very next thing is that they were so excited about their salvation that they went and told everyone they could...how excited are we about OUR salvation and...**DO WE SHARE WITH ANYONE?**

Act 13:50-52 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honorable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. 51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

- † Persecution – if looked at in God's eyes – will spur us on in JOY!
- † Jesus spoke of the blessing of persecution: Mat 5:10-12 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

III. Iconium

A. Making Disciples

Act 14:1 And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

- † Again, everywhere they went, they first started with the Jews...

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† **The Result: ...a great multitude believed!**

B. Opposition

Act 14:2-3 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren. 3 Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

† **Where God is working, you can count on Satan working to diminish, undermine, discourage and divide the ministers of the Gospel.**

† **Mar 3:24-25** And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

† **Paul's response: they abode there a long time speaking boldly in the Lord...WHY? ...because they were trying to persuade them to salvation! God takes NO pleasure in the death of the wicked...rather He desires that NONE should perish but ALL should come to repentance!**

C. Fleeing Danger

Act 14:4-7 **But** the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles. 5 And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them, 6 They were aware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: 7 And there they preached the gospel.

† **Pro 22:3** A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

IV. Lystra and Derbe

A. Lystra

Act 14:7-10 And there they preached the gospel. 8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who **never** had walked: 9 The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, 10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

† **God allowed a miraculous healing to confirm Paul's preaching...so that the people could see that God was with them!**

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Act 14:11-13 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. 12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

† **The pagan people attributed this great miracle to their pagan gods and even saw Barnabas as Jupiter (the [king of the gods](#) and the [god of sky](#) and [thunder](#). Jupiter was the chief deity of Roman state religion throughout the [Republican](#) and [Imperial](#) eras, until the Empire [came under Christian rule](#).), and Paul as Mercurius (He is the patron god of financial gain, commerce, eloquence (including poetry), messages/ communication).**

1. Pointing to Christ

Act 14:14-18 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, 15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: 16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. 18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

† **Paul and Barnabas pointed the people back to God – the maker of heaven and earth!**

† **REMEMBER: Isa 42:8** I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. **(We saw what happened to Herod in chp. 12)**

2. Opposition

Act 14:19-20 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. 20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

† **Of Course, the natural progression is again Opposition to the success! **We must remember “WHO” they (and we) stand for...****

† **2Ti 2:3** Thou therefore **endure hardness**, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

† **(And also) Isa 54:17** No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the

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servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

B. Derbe

Act 14:21-22 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, 22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**

† **Continue in the Faith: 1Co 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

† **Much Tribulation: Php 3:7, 10-11** But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Act 14:23-28 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. 24 And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. 25 And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia: 26 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. 27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. 28 And there they abode long time with the disciples.

† **They shared their testimony of how God had moved and how the grace of God had prevailed and proved Romans 2:4**

† **Rom 2:4b** the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

V. Conclusion

From the Introduction...the traits of a missionary are: *determination, perseverance, patience and dedication.*

We are all missionaries in our areas of influence...is Christ our sufficiency and are we growing in character and these these traits?