

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 03.07.2021

PERSECUTION IGNITES BOLDNESS – Acts 13:42-52

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

This week's study focuses on the example set by the church at Antioch. This was a church with a heart to reach people who were different from them. They reached beyond the Jews to the Gentiles and found there a receptive and accepting crowd. They lived out the heartbeat of God in the world. From their example, we see that a revitalized church spreads the gospel. Obviously, Paul possessed great powers of Persuasion for initially his sermon created interest, not opposition. We see that the Gentiles desired to hear more about the Gospel. They were Lost and empty men/women who had become sick of the immoralities and injustices of society. They begged for Paul and Barnabas to share more and more about the Forgiveness of Sin. In their Hunger for "something more" they were attracted to the morality and character of the Jewish people and the Worship of One Supreme Being. Therefore, they sometimes attended Jewish services, but hearing this opened the floodgates of their hearts, and now they hungered for more and more! Almost the whole city came out! Note that during the "Jesus Movement" many hippies started coming to church, and some church people resented them. They were different and Pastor Chuck Smith said, "you first have to catch the fish then you Clean them!" Let's get into our study...

1. What struck you or stood out to you during this week's study?
2. How do you feel when someone different than you is invited to your Growth Group or church etc.?

Paul and Barnabas had followed the Spirit's leadership into missionary work. Because of their obedience, people who had come to Christ rejoiced in their salvation. Also, a new church was planted. Most importantly for us, we would not be Christians today were it not for the conviction of the early church that the gospel was for the rest of world.

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 13:42-47

1. What do these verses teach about the process of sharing the gospel?
2. What opposition do you or your church sometimes face when they set out to obey God?
3. What does it mean to continue in the grace of God? (Acts 13:43)

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 13:48-52

1. So why do you think the Holy Spirit let them be "expelled" (Acts 13:50)?
2. How have you experienced resistance in your attempts to make disciples? Did you attempt to counteract the resistance? If so, how?
3. What steps can we take to strive for revival in our church and community?

Visitation/Restoration in 2021

Since the Jews rejected the gospel, Paul and Barnabas turned to the Gentiles because they were receptive. This answer defined a pattern Paul would follow throughout his missionary work—preaching first to the Jews and, when they rejected his message, preaching to the Gentiles. Unfortunately, those who reject the gospel are rejecting eternal life, for that life is found only in Jesus Christ. Paul and Barnabas had followed the Spirit's leadership into missionary work. Because of their obedience, people who had come to Christ rejoiced in their salvation. Also, a new church was planted. Most importantly for us, we would not be Christians today were it not for the conviction of the early church that the gospel was for the rest of world in spite of persecution.

4. What attitude did the Christians in Antioch have? – (Acts 13:52?)
5. How do you hope to see God move in your life and community?
6. How do you understand your role in God's call for the church to spread the gospel?

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

The Jews were still angry and so they finally chased Paul and Barnabas out of the city. However, a large group of Christians were left behind that were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. Meanwhile Paul and Barnabas went on to the next city which was named Iconium. There a large number of both Jews and Greeks became Christians. Again a group of Jews were filled with envy and hate. They were not able to do anything for a long time so Paul and Barnabas had a long time to teach in that city. The day came though when those who hated the Gospel decided to persecute and stone the apostles. Note that when unbelievers unite to persecute God's people the Good News continues to spread and believers are encouraged! History shows that persecution can ignite Boldness and increases our Joy in the Holy Spirit. They are literally Filled with Joy and the Holy Spirit – despite rejection and persecution. 😊

1. Do you know someone who does not know Jesus? Pray for this person every day. Pray for the gospel to advance in your community and around the world.
2. Have you ever shared your personal testimony with anyone? If not, begin sharing within your group.
3. In your opinion, how and why does the church (believers) continue to spread and grow? How will you respond when persecution comes?

PRAYER - Ask God to clearly convict any person in the group who needs to experience a spiritual awakening. Ask for the Holy Spirit to be present in your group as you move forward in your efforts to serve God and obey His commands. Pray for spiritual boldness in the Holy Spirit and revival in our land.

"For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." 14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" (Rom. 10:13-15)

GROWTH GROUP MINISTRY

VISION STATEMENT:

To love God and love others by:
seeing a movement of thousands of
committed believers meeting in small
groups all over the county, transforming
lives, families and communities
for the glory of God.

Matthew 28:19-20

GROWTH GROUP MINISTRY

MISSION:

To reach out and connect people
into small groups where they
can grow in Christ-likeness, get
equipped and disciple others
also.

2 Timothy 2:2

*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even
to the end of the age." Matt. 28:18-20*

*The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses;, entrust these to faithful men
who will be able to teach others also." 2 Tim. 2:2*