

and the leaders of the city, and they incited a mob against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of town.⁵¹ So they shook the dust from their feet as a sign of rejection and went to the town of Iconium.⁵² And the believers were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

10. Discussion: (a) What motivated the Jews in Pisidian Antioch to slander and argue against Paul? (b) Why do you think Paul felt it was necessary to offer the message of the Good News about Jesus first to the Jews, before going to the Gentiles? (c) How can people judge themselves unworthy of eternal life? (Verse 46) (d) To whom was the Lord speaking in Isaiah 49:6? (e) What must a person do in order to show that he or she has been chosen for eternal life? (f) Why were the Gentiles glad? (g) What do you think caused the message to spread throughout the region? (h) [Note: Jesus taught his disciples: "If any town refuses to listen to your message, shake its dust from your feet as you leave." (Matt. 10:14)] What meaning do you see in shaking dust against those who reject the Good News about Jesus? (i) What do you think our response should be today when people openly reject the Good News of forgiveness through Christ?

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An Interactive Life Application Bible Study of the Acts of the Apostles for Small Groups

Key: Blue = New Testament Red = Words of Jesus
Green = Old Testament Quotes

Lesson 18

1. Background Information: Lesson 17 ended with Paul addressing the Jewish brothers at Antioch in the Roman province of Pisidia in, what is now, central Turkey. This lesson continues Paul's message.

2. Paul's message to the people in Pisidian Antioch.

Acts 13:24-33 Before [Jesus] came [and began his ministry], John the Baptist preached that all the people of Israel needed to repent of their sins and turn to God and be baptized.²⁵ As John was finishing his ministry he asked, 'Do you think I am the Messiah? No, I am not! But he is coming soon—and I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the sandals on his feet.'

²⁶ "Brothers—you sons of Abraham, and also you God-fearing Gentiles—this message of salvation has been sent to us! ²⁷ The people in Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize Jesus as the one the prophets had spoken about. Instead, they condemned him, and in doing this they fulfilled the prophets' words that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸ They found no legal reason to execute him, but they asked Pilate to have him killed anyway.

²⁹ "When they had done all that the prophecies said about him, they took him down from the cross and placed him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead! ³¹ And over a period of many days he appeared to those who had gone with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to the people of Israel.

³² "And now we are here to bring you this Good News. The promise was made to our ancestors, ³³ and God has now fulfilled it for us, their descendants, by raising Jesus.

3. Note: There were two cities named Antioch -- one on the northeastern Mediterranean coast near Syria; Pisidian Antioch was in a Roman province that is now called Turkey.

4. Discussion: (a) How does the message of John the Baptist apply to our lives today? (Acts 13:24-25) (b) What mistakes are still being made, that the Jews also made regarding Jesus? (See Acts 13:27-28) (c) Why is belief in the resurrection of Jesus just as important now as it was then?

5. Some messianic prophecies.

Acts 13:33-37 This is what the second psalm says about Jesus:

‘You are my Son.

Today I have become your Father’ (Psalm 2:7)

³⁴ For God had promised to raise him from the dead, not leaving him to rot in the grave. He said, ‘I will give you the sacred blessings I promised to David.’ (Psalm 16:7) ³⁵ Another psalm explains it more fully: ‘You will not allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.’ (Psalm 16:10) ³⁶ This is not a reference to David, for after David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died and was buried with his ancestors, and his body decayed. ³⁷ No, it was a reference to someone else—someone whom God raised and whose body did not decay.

6. Discussion: Paul quoted three prophecies from the Psalms, about the Messiah. In your own words describe the meaning of these three prophecies.

7. The Good News is welcomed at Pisidian Antioch.

Acts 13:38-43 “Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. ³⁹ Everyone who believes in him is declared right with God—something the law of Moses could never do. ⁴⁰ Be careful! Don’t let the prophets’ words apply to you. For they said,

⁴¹ ‘Look, you mockers,
be amazed and die!
For I am doing something in your own day,
something you wouldn’t believe
even if someone told you about it.’” (Habakkuk 1:5 – Grk.)

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas left the synagogue that day, the people begged them to speak about these things again the next week. ⁴³ Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, and the two men urged them to continue to rely on the grace of God

8. Discussion: (a) What can believing in Jesus as Messiah do that the Law could never do? (b) What is your understanding of the prophet Habakkuk’s warning? (c) Why do you think the Jews urged Paul and Barnabas to come back? (d) What is your understanding of what it means to rely on the grace of God?

9. Paul Turns to the Gentiles.

13:44-52 The following week almost the entire city turned out to hear them preach the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when some of the Jews saw the crowds, they were jealous; so they slandered Paul and argued against whatever he said.

⁴⁶ Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and declared, “It was necessary that we first preach the word of God to you Jews. But since you have rejected it and judged yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we will offer it to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ 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.’”
(Isaiah 49:6)

⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ So the Lord’s message spread throughout that region.

⁵⁰ Then the Jews stirred up the influential religious women