

Acts 13:42-52
“You Must Decide What to Do with the Gospel”
November 30, 2025

Acts 13.42-52

42 As they were leaving, the people urged them to speak about these matters the following Sabbath. **43** After the synagogue had been dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking with them and urging them to continue in the grace of God.

44 The following Sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of the Lord. **45** But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what Paul was saying, insulting him. **46** Paul and Barnabas boldly replied, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first. Since you reject it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles. **47** For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

I have made you
a light for the Gentiles
to bring salvation
to the ends of the earth.”

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and honored the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed to eternal life believed. **49** The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. **50** But the Jews incited the prominent God-fearing women and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their district. **51** But Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off their feet against them and went to Iconium. **52** And the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Main Idea - The gospel was given to you, you must decide what to do with it.

What’s the toughest decision you’ve ever made?

Paul asked them what they would do with Christ? The people asked them to stay, and Paul and Barnabas preached with boldness.

“When we preach Christ crucified, we have no reason to stammer, or stutter, or hesitate, or apologize; there is nothing in the gospel of which we have any cause to be ashamed.”
(C.H. Spurgeon)

In this situation, Christ has come for you!

Isaiah 49.6: “It is not enough for you to be my servant raising up the tribes of Jacob and restoring the protected ones of Israel. I will also make you a light for the nations, to be my salvation to the ends of the earth.

Luke 2:29-32 - Now, Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace, as you promised. For my eyes have seen your salvation. You have prepared it in the presence of all peoples—a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory to your people Israel.

Just as Paul looked at the mission of Jesus as his own, so should we.

“We shall not adjust our Bible to the age; but before we have done with it, by God’s grace, we shall adjust the age to the Bible.”
(C.H. Spurgeon)

As the Word spread, jealousy grew.

Genesis 3:14: **So the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life.**

To reject Jesus is to spend eternity in the dust.

The disciples were left with joy. And this is your decision today. You are called to respond to this incredible gospel. You like many in this area can reject it, or you can believe his Word and experience the fullness of his joy today and for eternity!

Life Group Discussion Questions

- What is the hardest decision you’ve had to make in life? Where did it lead you?
- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- What stands out to you about the crowd’s response to Paul’s message—both the eagerness to hear more and the jealousy that arose?
- Why do we get jealous of other people? How do we rejoice with others?
- What would it look like for us to have the same hunger for God’s Word that the crowd displayed? How can we cultivate that?
- How can we be intentional about sharing the gospel with others while trusting God with the results?
- Have you ever experienced resistance or discouragement when sharing your faith? How does this passage encourage you? In what ways might we be tempted to measure ministry success differently than Paul and Barnabas did?
- What hope or joy do you find in Christ—for the present and for eternity?
- From your Life Group time, what is an idea or two from your discussion that you can work to apply this week?