

LESSONS THIS QUARTER {2}

1) 01 Sep 2024	Acts 13a	Sent
2) 08 Sep	Acts 13b	The Task
3) 15 Sep	Acts 14	The Truth
4) 22 Sep	Acts 15a	The Gospel
5) 29 Sep	Acts 15b	Kingdom Work
6) 06 Oct	Acts 16	Every Opportunity
7) 13 Oct	Acts 17	Believe
8) 20 Oct	Acts 18	Together
9) 27 Oct	Acts 19	Motives
10) 03 Nov	Acts 20-21	Commit
11) 10 Nov	Acts 22-25	Witness
12) 17 Nov	Acts 26-27	Respond
13) 24 Nov	Acts 28	Trust

INTRODUCTION

- Does listening to the Gospel ever get old? Should it ever get old?
- Paul and Barnabas talked in such a manner many of their listeners “begged” to hear more from them the next Sabbath – and many even followed them around town asking questions and listening to their responses for hours.
- What was their secret to such a response from their audience? Was it ...
 - Funny jokes? □ New Information? □ Illuminating Knowledge?
 - Great Application? □ Shock & Awe Miracles and Wonders? □ Other?
- What would entice us to be excited to hear more from a Gospel Preacher?
- Recall crowds didn't give Jesus & His Disciples time to eat [Mk:3:20; 6:31](#)

Passage	Comments
13:42-44	<p>People were Hungry to Hear More</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v42. For the first time Luke mentions Paul before Barnabas, possibly indicating Paul had assumed the lead by this time. BUT he flips their names again in chapters 14 & 15. So, this may be nothing more than Luke's literary/writing style. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What resonated with their listeners that they “begged” to hear more from Paul and Barnabas the next Sabbath? ♦ What if a congregation is no longer “begging to hear more”? Or they prefer to hear only pleasant words or be entertained? Would this be a sign of concern? How would we fix this? • v43. Notice it was the serious God-fearing listeners who hung around for more quality time with Paul & Barnabas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Churches should invest in continual feeding of the serious believers and less focused on non-committed pew sitters ♦ If churches just preach a salvation message every Sunday, they are starving their flock. What meat do they need? • v44. The next Sabbath nearly the whole town showed up to listen to Paul and Barnabas. Should we see this TODAY?
13:45-49	<p>Paul Moved to Plan B → Take the Gospel to the Gentiles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv45-47. Principle of Knowing When to Leave. Is it OK for saved Catholics, saved Jews, saved Mormons, saved JW's to stay within their church/synagogue to continue witnessing? Maybe – At least for a time. Recall that an angel of the Lord told the Apostles to “speak to the (Jews) in the temple the whole message of this Life” (Acts 5:19-21). Recall Paul had letters from the High Priest to arrest any believing Jews proselytizing in the synagogues in Damascus Acts 9:1-2 • v46. Paul eventually realized he had to move away from the religion he grew up in – his comfort zone – when it became a hostile environment Mat 10:23; Lk 4:28-32 • v48. “...as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed” What a great passage on God's love & sovereignty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ The Gospel is available to all (John 3:16), it is efficacious to those who willingly believe (John 5:40; Eph 1:13), and without showing partiality (Rom 2:11) God knows who would believe before time began (Eph 1:4); which means no one will have an excuse (Rom 1:20) WOW
13:50-51	<p>Mob Manipulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, people are easily manipulated by malcontents inside and outside the church. How can we guard against it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Listen to gripes & complaints? □ Investigate the issues? • BUT mobs can be used in a godly fashion. Nehemiah set up a great assembly against some oppressors..... Neh 5:16-13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ More on MOBS later – The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly
13:52	<p>Spiritual Joy Comes with Living Out the Truth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we exhibit being filled with Joy & with the Holy Spirit?

NOTE: THE “MODERN” GOSPEL MAY BE KILLING THE CHURCH

- Many so-called Gospel-preaching evangelistic churches are drastically shrinking. **WHY?** Is it just a Sign of the Times where Jesus finds little faith in the last days? Or are there other factors?
 - ♦ **Consider this.** Evangelical saints seem to be migrating to so-called “Feel-Good” or “Topical-Teaching” churches. **WHY?**
 - ♦ These other types of churches may actually be more biblically-minded than many evangelicals give them credit for since they focus on teaching the whole counsel of God – the entire Gospel and not just the saving aspect of the Gospel
 - ♦ Many saints have grown weary of hearing the same Gospel-saving message every Sunday, which, as believers, has little value for them – so they are moving elsewhere to learn more.
- **We may have turned what was once a strength (preaching the Gospel) into a weakness, because we preach and fail to teach.**
 - ♦ Do farmers plow or thresh continuously ([Isaiah 28:24, 28](#))? The rhetorical and obvious answer is NO! If all a farmer did was plow, they would grow nothing. From a different perspective, there is a time to plow, a time to plant, and a time to harvest ([Ecc 3:2](#)). IOW, there is a time to share the Gospel fervently to save the lost – AND then there is a time to teach the whole counsel of God to mature the saved so more lost can be saved.... [Acts 20:27](#)
 - ♦ To whom does God want to teach knowledge?
 - ♦ To those who are weaned from milk ([Isaiah 28:9; 1Cor 3:2; Heb 5:12-14; Heb 6:1-3; 1Peter 2:2](#)).
 - ♦ Like Jesus and Paul, we need to know our audience, be they Jews or Gentiles, saved or unsaved, mature or immature, or a mix of all the above, and teach/preach accordingly, else our efforts will be unfruitful and even unwelcomed.
 - **Consider this.** Recall what John the Baptist told the tax collectors, the soldiers, and others when they asked him – after they had accepted the Gospel – “How shall we now live?” [[Luke 3:10-14](#)]. John the Baptist did not say, “Well, just keeping coming back to the river and I'll keep sharing the same Gospel with you, and I'll use a different verse each time.” No, he gave the growing crowds of believers very applicable principles to live by beginning with STOP mistreating people and START helping people.
 - ♦ If we want to grow our churches, spiritually and numerically, we need to disciple God's people beyond [John 3:16](#)

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- God's Kingdom is all about GROWTH! Recall the Lord's parables regarding Leaven, Good Seed, and Mustard Seed [Mat 13:24-33](#)
- Churchgoers, be they young or old, long-time attendees, or first-time guests should not be bored by what is being heralded from the pulpit.
 - ♦ Nor should they be entertained for entertainment's sake
- Modern-day churches suffer from a ONE-WAY monologue syndrome.
- Jesus and His Disciples excited the masses because they asked questions and allowed questions to come at them via TWO-WAY dialog.
 - ♦ This is why Bible Studies, Sunday Schools, and Home Groups with their more engaging formats are so important these days to grow His church.
 - ♦ Recall Jesus taught w/ Authority → He knew the Answers..... [Mt 7:29-8:1](#)
 - ♦ ...and we should be prepared to give an answer to ALL [1Peter 3:15](#)

NEXT WEEK: Acts 14. Paul and Barnabas continued to speak “in such a manner” that large numbers believed. WOW! Also, it was qualified church leaders (elders) who were responsible to select other church leaders from within their local congregation. Should that be the biblical model for churches today?

