

# Missions in the Midst of Unbelief

*Sermon Series: Unhindered: God's Church Then & Now*

Acts 13:13-52

R2R Distinctive: Humanity

October 20, 2013

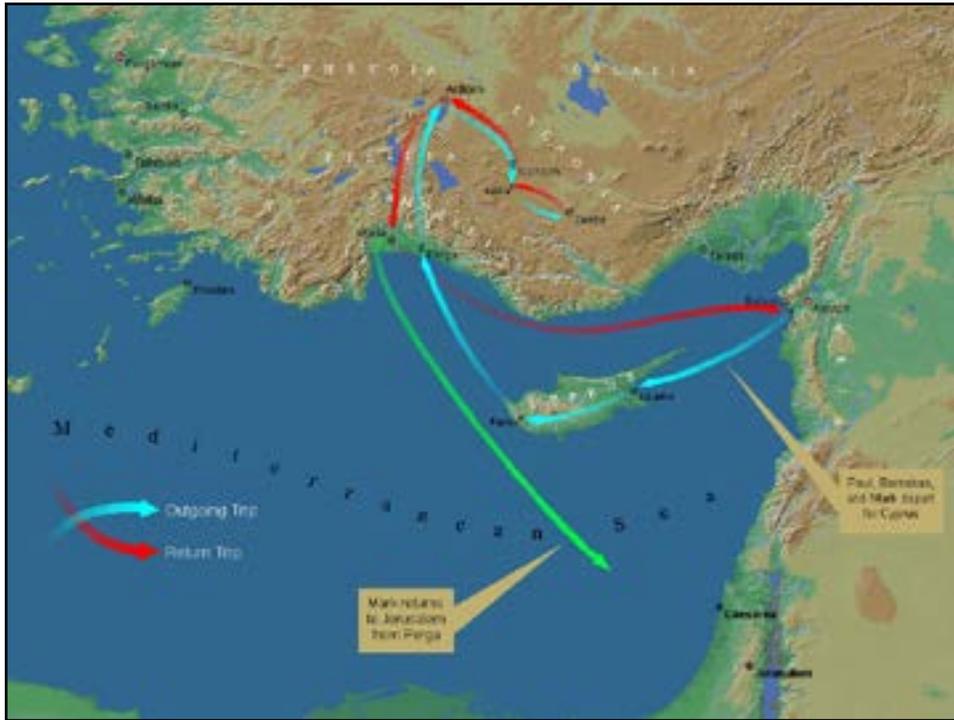
## Understanding the text...

1. The Strategy (vs. 13-15)
2. The Sermon (vs. 16-41)
3. The Situation (vs. 42-47)
4. The Shift (vs. 48-52)

## SERMON IN A SENTENCE

The seismic shift God brought about at this point in church history evidences His power to save all who are appointed to eternal life, even in the middle of those who refuse to believe.

1. God saves all types of people.
2. God saves at all times.
3. God exclusively saves through the gospel.
4. God saves for His glory and our joy.



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Questions? Text them to 515.957.1840 and we will try to address them near the close of this message.

## Faithlife Study Bible

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Lighthouse Discussion Guide for *Unhindered: God's Church Then & Now*

This study guide is produced to coordinate with the weekend teaching of First Family Church, Ankeny, IA. More resources on this series are available at [www.ffclife.com](http://www.ffclife.com). This work is licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license. Fall 2013. FFCB

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UNHINDERED: GOD'S CHURCH THEN & NOW

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### Quick Review:

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

### Introduction:

1. **Who is one of the best speakers you have ever heard in person? What made this person stand out to you?**
2. **As a believer, who has God placed in your path that is an unbeliever? Is this a friend, co-worker, neighbor, family member?**
3. **When it comes to family members, what keeps you from giving up in the midst of a loved one's unbelief?**

### Digging Deeper:

Read Acts 13:13-52. This is Paul's first recorded sermon, and it is delivered to a Jewish audience in a synagogue. Even though Paul spoke some harsh words, the response is quite positive (see vs. 42-43).

4. **To whom is Paul's sermon addressed (see v. 16)?**
5. **Paul's sermon is divided into three main points. Summarize each section:**

*Section 1—vs. 17-25 (summarize)*

*Section 2—vs. 26-37 (summarize)*

*Section 3—vs. 38-41 (summarize)*

6. **A Contrasting Response. Read vs. 44-47. How did the Jews respond the next week in comparison to the prior week (vs. 42-43). What was at the root of this change?**
7. **Verses 48-52 describe Paul and Barnabas' reaction to the Jewish persecution. They "shook the dust of their feet in protest" and moved on. Yet, v. 52 tells us they were "filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit." Why do you think they could rejoice in the midst of such strong opposition?**

### Concluding Thoughts

As we have witnessed this week, Paul and Barnabas' stay in Pisidian Antioch resulted in a mixture of contradictions. We find four clear areas where opposite forces seem to be at work against each other...

1. The gospel was met (again - see vs. 13:1-12) with strong opposition. In this case, by blatant unbelief fueled by raw human emotions.
2. In spite of a strong spirit of unbelief, God saved those whom He had ordained to save (v. 48).
3. In spite of a strong reference to God's sovereignty (v. 48), we also see a clear choice placed before us (vs. 38-41) to accept the truth of the gospel message and believe in Jesus Christ, and Him alone, for our salvation.
4. In spite of opposition, the Holy Spirit filled the missionaries and those who believed with joy (vs. 48a; 52).

There are four lessons we can learn when it comes to missions in the midst of unbelief:

1. When confronted by opposition and contradictions, trust God. He will bring fruit wherever He chooses to bring fruit.
2. If the opportunity presents itself (as in Paul being asked if he would like to say something), preach the gospel, no matter how difficult it may be for your audience to hear. Paul could have given a short devotional on finding joy in the Word of God, but that city would not have been confronted with the truth of the gospel. As Paul would later admonish us, preach Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor. 1:23).
3. At the same time, use wisdom in maintaining your witness to unbelievers. There may come a time to "shake the dust from your feet" and move on.
4. When God saves someone...rejoice!