

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series*

Acts of the Apostles

### **"Jews and Gentiles Respond to the Gospel"**

**Acts 13:38-52**

[38] Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; [39] and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. [40] Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:

[41] 'Behold, you despisers,  
Marvel and perish!  
For I work a work in your days,  
A work which you will by no means believe,  
Though one were to declare it to you.'

[42] So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. [43] Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. [44] On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. [45] But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. [46] Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. [47] For so the Lord has commanded us:

'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,  
That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'

[48] Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. [49] And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. [50] But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. [51] But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. [52] And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Read vv.38-39.
  - a. In your own words explain what this means, and what it means to you.
  - b. What are 3 truths found in these verses related to salvation.
  - c. How does forgiveness and justification come through Jesus Christ?
2. In vv. 42-43, how did the Jews and Gentiles respond to Paul's message?
3. What is the commonality found in these verses: 44, 46, 48, and 49, and how was the Holy Spirit moving in each verse?
4. Why would the Jews be filled with envy?
5. How did Paul and Barnabas respond to the Jews? How did the Gentiles respond to Paul and Barnabas?
6. Read vv.50.
  - a. Why did the Jews involve "devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city"?
  - b. How did Paul and Barnabas respond to this, and how was it possible for them to do this?
7. What does "shook off the dust from their feet against them" mean?
8. Describe the *devout and prominent women or chief men* in today's church?
  - a. How could this make you feel if the *devout and prominent women or chief* come against you? Where can you find encouragement to continue doing the work of the Lord?
  - b. Where can you find wisdom so that you are not fooled and influenced by the *devout and prominent* and go against the ministers of righteousness?