

- iii. John the baptist said Jesus was vastly greater. (25)
- iv. Because the Jewish leaders did not recognize Jesus as the One promised in the prophets, they fulfilled the prophets and condemned the Innocent One. (27)
- v. These things are emphasized about Jesus: Jesus' innocent life leading to an unjust death on a tree; He was buried in a tomb; God raised Him; he appeared to many witnesses. (28-31)
- vi. This sermon culminates in the great promise of the Gospel: forgiveness of sins and freedom. (38-39)

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- In what ways is the Holy Spirit actively involved in the mission of the church in Acts 13:1-4? In what way are the people?
- Why do you think fasting is mentioned twice in this short section which precipitated the sending into mission?
- Has someone ever interfered with your attempt to share the Gospel? What happened? How did you respond?
- What does the face of Gospel opposition look like most often in your life? Who is stirring up persecution against the Gospel today?
- As you look at Paul's gospel presentation in 16-41, what stands out most to you about his message? Any surprises?
- Have you experienced the forgiveness promised in the Gospel? Have you experienced freedom from what the law could not free you from? What is that? Are there areas of freedom you still pray God will grant you through Christ?
- Do you think it is important to realize that Gospel fulfills promises God made in history that were fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ? Explain.

The Gospel and the Faces of Opposition

Jerry Cisar — October 5, 2014

Text: Acts 13

I. The Gospel Advance Has New Faces

- A. The faces of leadership in the church have a new look.
 - i. Leadership contrasted with 1:13.
 - a) None of the twelve;
 - b) Jews from the dispersion (Hellenistic Jews);
 - c) Proselytes
 - ii. "worshiping" (Isaiah 66:21)
- B. The Holy Spirit was the driving force of the mission.
 - i. What does it look like for the Holy Spirit to be the driving force of mission?
 - ii. How do we know when the Holy Spirit says something?

A Spirit-filled people seeking God's purposes can know the Spirit is at work in them and together they will have the mind of Christ!

 - Philippians 2:13
- iii. How does the Holy Spirit send people into mission?
- iv. What is the mission the Holy Spirit sends people on?
 - a) The Holy Spirit anointed and sent Jesus with a message and a mission. (Luke 4)
 - b) The Holy Spirit anoints and sends these men with a message and mission.
 - c) The message and mission of the Gospel liberate people through the forgiveness of sins and release them from the law's just sentence on them.

➤ Isaiah 58:6

II. Gospel Opposition Has Many Faces

A. The first face of its opposition is Elymas. (13:6-12)
i. Elymas stands in opposition to God's purposes.

ii. Elymas is a Jewish false-prophet.
a) Elymas personifies the Jewish leadership as described by the prophets. (e.g. Isaiah 2:6).
b) Jesus spoke about false prophets:
➤ Matthew 7:15; 24:24

iii. The Spirit comes on Paul with an intensity, that comes through Paul's stare!
a) What about God being no respecter of persons?

b) ESV: *...will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?*
➤ Isaiah 59

B. The Jewish Leaders and Their Jealousy (13:45-48)
i. *Elymas sought to turn the proconsul away from the faith; these synagogue leaders are seeking to turn the crowds away from Paul and Barnabas.*

ii. Just as Elymas failed, so here (48).

No matter how much opposition rises against the Word or the messengers, God's intent to save cannot be thwarted.

C. Men and Women of High Standing in the City (Act 13:50)

Gospel messengers should never give up because no matter what form opposition against the Gospel takes, it will ultimately fail.

III. The Gospel Message Always Leads the Advance

A. The Holy Spirit's work in 13:1-4 results in the Word of God being proclaimed.
i. In Cyprus (13:5, 7)
ii. In Pisidian Antioch (Galatia) (13:15, 26, 44, 46, 48)
iii. The whole region (13:49)

B. The Holy Spirit gifts people differently for the mission.
i. John Mark is their "helper." (Luke 1:2)

ii. Some proclaim, some help... each of us are used in different ways for the advance of the Gospel.

C. Paul's Message in the Synagogue (13:16-41)

i. Twice Paul addresses his audience as Israel and those who fear God. (16, 29) (cf. 10:35)

ii. The Gospel proclaims that the promises given in Israel's history are fulfilled. (23, 32-33)