

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 13:13-45 | LESSON SUMMARY

Diversity

ACTS 13:14, "...but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down." (ESV)

- John's departure: abrupt and causes speculation
- Antioch in Pisidia versus Syrian Antioch
 - Antioch in Pisidia named after Antiochus, King of Syria (after Alexander the Great)
 - Roman Colony
 - Good roads & trade: large Jewish population
- Paul
 - At this point we see a marked shift in Paul's leadership
 - Growth and discipleship
 - "Paul and his companions"
 - Continues to speak in the synagogue
 - Common practice, but also because of conviction in bringing the word to those promised it first
 - "Brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to us has been sent the message of this salvation." (13:26, ESV)
 - them." (13:9, ESV)



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ACTS 13:15, "After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent a message to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, say it." (ESV)

- Another history lesson
 - Paul's approach echoes Stephen's final sermon
 - A genuine attempt to connect
 - God's providential hand
 - References Jesus being in lineage of David
 - References John the Baptist prophecy
 - Critical connections for someone with a knowledge of the Old Testament
- Paul focuses on facts and doesn't get into theology or differing interpretations
 - He also uses specific figures, like King David, whose words carried tremendous weight

Understanding = True Freedom

ACTS 13:27, "For those who live in Jerusalem and their rulers, because they did not recognize him nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him." (ESV)



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- Paul seems to be pointing a finger, but he himself was once one such Jew
- Truth can be right in front of you

ACTS 13:39, "...and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses." (ESV)

- Paul goes on to quote Habakkuk in verse 41 as a kind of warning
 - "Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told." (Habakkuk 1:5, ESV)
- As a result, many "devout" Jews are converted and "beg" for Paul and Barnabas to come back
- Others are filled with jealousy, and spread confusion through lies

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: R. Kent Hughes, *Acts: The Church Afire*, John B. Miller, *Convinced That God Had Called Us*, C. Hemer, *The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History*

