

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for February 22, 2015**

**God's Faithfulness in Rejection**  
**Acts 13:44-52**

Acts 13:44-52 records a dramatic response in Pisidian Antioch to Paul's message of salvation through Jesus Christ.

1. The city assembles (13:44)

It is likely that the large crowd that heard the word of God was gathered at the outskirts of town in a theater estimated to hold over 12,000 people.

2. The Jews argue with Paul (13:45)

The Jewish leaders were motivated by jealousy in opposing Peter (cf. Acts 5:17).

Blasphemy had a general meaning of revile, slander, or defamation and when spoken against God it was punishable by death according to the Old Testament Law (Leviticus 24:16). Anyone who opposes the gospel of Jesus Christ (cf. Acts 13:16-41) is guilty of blasphemy.

3. Paul addresses the Jews (13:46-47)

The "turning to the Gentiles" is not absolute, but this was the first of several instances where this occurred (Acts 18:6; 19:9; 28:28).

Paul quotes Isaiah 49:6, which referenced the Messiah. This was commanded to Paul and Barnabas in the sense that Christ's work of bringing "salvation to the end of the earth" had fallen to them (cf. Acts 1:8).

When we share the message of Jesus Christ, we fulfill the will of God as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

4. The Gentiles accept Christ (13:48-49)

Luke uses the word "glorifying" elsewhere to speak of glory given to God (Luke 2:20, 7:16; Acts 4:21, 11:18). Therefore it is appropriate to give glory not only to God Himself, but also to what God says, because His words represent Himself.

"Had been appointed" is a participle in the perfect tense and passive voice. This is a strong, clear statement of God's completely sovereign choice in our salvation. Paul

taught that the timing of this determination was “before the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4).

The natural response of the Gentiles was to spread the word well beyond Pisidian Antioch.

5. The Jews attack Paul (13:50)

Like the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem, the Jewish leaders incited others in power—upper class women who followed Judaism and were able to influence the leading men. They could not fight Paul theologically, so they fought him politically.

6. Paul and Barnabas arrive in Iconium (13:51)

Shaking the dust off their feet, an idiom for Jewish disassociation, was the proper response taught by Jesus (Luke 9:5). We have no responsibility to continue to pursue people who reject the word of God. Iconium was 85 miles to the south and east as once again persecution fueled the spread of the gospel.

7. The disciples abound in joy (13:52)

Our external difficulty does not need to diminish our internal joy, which is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

May we joyfully persevere in our service for the Lord regardless of the opposition.