

“Don’t Miss Out On The Word”

Acts 13:42-52

06/01/10

Introduction: The Bible tells us that Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God will stand forever. This is a true statement from the Lord; however, some people are coming to church looking for everything except the Word of God. The Word of God is what keeps the believer walking the straight and narrow. When we want to do our own thing, the Word of God has a way of correcting us (**2 Timothy 3:16**) (**Hebrews 4:12**). When the enemy (devil) tries to attack us, we should use the Word of God to defend ourselves (**Ephesians 6:17**). There is a blessing when we receive the Word of God. It brings salvation to the unsaved (**Romans 10:17**). When we reject the Word of God, it will lead us down the road to eternal damnation. In our lesson tonight, we are going to see a group of religious folk who missed their blessing by rejecting the Word of God!

Verses 42-45

Obsession

We see that Paul and Barnabas’ preaching were not in vain. Many of the Jews believed and accepted the Word of God. We see that the Jews and proselytes (newcomers) wanted to hear more. They were obsessed with the Word. Verse 43 said they persuaded them to continue in the Grace of God. The Word of God is pure and without blemish (**Psalms 12:6**). They were hungry for God’s Word (**Psalms 34:8**). These were mainly Gentiles who had become so impressed with what they heard Paul and Barnabas preach. They could not wait until next week. Are we hungry for God’s Word? Verse 44 tells us that on the next Sabbath the majority of the city came to hear the Word of God. Those that heard the Word shared it and that caused the crowd to come hear it for themselves. Do we become witnesses when we hear the Word? Those who had never before attended church came to hear the Word of God. What brought them? The faithful preaching and witnessing of Paul, Barnabas, and others about the truth of our Lord and Savior (**Jeremiah 20:9**). We can see in verse 45 there was some religious jealousy. These leaders of the Jews suddenly realize that they are losing their following. The text says they were filled with envy toward the preachers. They opposed the ministry and the teaching of Paul. They actually spoke against the truth and contradicted what Scripture proclaimed.

Verses 46-49

Opportunity

These verses show us that every person on earth is a free **agent**. Either we choose the Lord Jesus Christ or we refuse Him. When these religious leaders **rejected** the preaching/teaching of God's Word, it gave Paul and Barnabas an opportunity to share with those who wanted to hear. These Gentiles do not only want Jesus as Savior, but they are eager to receive life in Him (**John 3:18**). God offered the plan of salvation to the Jews first (**Matthew 10:5-6**) (**Romans 1:16**). Although the thrust of Paul's ministry was to the Gentiles, he also had a desire to see the Jews saved. Verse 47 tells us that Paul is now no longer limited to only carry the message to the Jews, but is told by the Lord to spread it everywhere to "**whosoever**" will (**Matthew 28:19-20**). When the Gentiles heard this, the text said they were glad. Are we happy when we hear the Word of God? When we receive the Word with **Gladness**, it makes a change in our lives (**Acts 2:40-41**).

Verses 50-52

Opposition

Here we see the opposition experienced by Paul and Barnabas. Even though the Word was being preached and lives were being **changed**, the Jews continued to maintain their opposition. The text tells us that they "stirred up" people of status ("devout and honorable women, chief men"). Their negative **attitude** caused Paul and Barnabas to be dismissed from the city. As directed by Jesus Christ, Paul and Barnabas shook the "dust off their feet". This was an expression of disdain displayed by the Jews when returning from Gentile regions (**Matthew 10:14-15**). The practice implied that the Jews did not even want to bring the Gentile dust to Israel. The two men did this in a visible act to let them know they will not have any more to do with the Jewish leaders here and would let **God** take care of them. These Jews (who opposed) not only missed out on the Word, but it led them to miss out on the eternal and earthly blessing. They missed the blessing of eternal life and the subsequent earthly blessings of "joy" and the "Holy Ghost" (**Galatians 5:22**). In return, they would experience righteous judgment of God. Likewise, when we choose to ignore and not apply the Word, we will experience consequences (**Hebrews 4:7**). The joy Paul and Barnabas displayed was not only at the success (among the Gentiles), but also because they were counted worthy to suffer reproach and persecution for the sake of Christ and His Gospel. In conclusion, we should never let anything cause us to miss out on His Word. The Word is what this **world** needs!

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