



- And Those Jealous Jews:
  - Were A Great Obstacle For Paul & Barnabas:
    - To Overcome!
  - And There May Be Great Obstacles For Us To Overcome As Well, When It Comes To Sharing God's Word & The Gospel!
    - But We Do Not Need To Be Ashamed!
    - Because We All Still Have:
- A Further Obligation:
  - Which We Find In 13:46-47 - "Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. / For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth!"
    - Even When We Face Obstacles Like Paul & Barnabas:
      - We Still Have An Obligation!
  - We Must Not Let Anything Or Anyone:
    - Stop Our Mouths From Declaring "The Testimony Of God!"
      - In 13:47 - Paul Quotes An Old Testament Verse - From Isaiah 49:6 - Which Is Sometimes Called:
        - The Old Testament's Great Commission!
  - And We Must Not Be Ashamed!
    - However - We Need To Also Remember That:
      - Even Though Some Will Reject The Gospel, Others Will Respond & Believe!
    - Which Is What We See Next In 13:48-49:
- A Further Occasion!
  - 13:48-49 - "And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. / And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region!"
    - There Were Two Opposite Reactions To The Same Message:
      - The Jews Were Jealous:
        - And Did Not Believe!
      - But Many Of The Gentiles Were Glad:
        - And Believed - Because:
          - 13:48 - "As Many As Were Ordained to Eternal Life Believed!"
    - The Thing Is - Paul & Barnabas:
      - Did Not Know Who Would Respond In Belief!
        - And Neither Do We!
          - But God Does!
          - He Chose Them & Appointed Them To Eternal Life!
      - And This Gives Us A Great Motive For Sharing This Message!
        - Because - God Still Has Many Who Are To Come Into His Family!
        - And That Is Why We Must Not Be Ashamed To Keep Sharing The Gospel!
          - There Are Still More Fish In The Sea Of This World To Catch!
    - There May Still Be Great Occasions Like This!
      - This Is Why We Must Continue To Spread The Net Of The Gospel As Widely As Possible!
        - Because We Don't Know When Our Opportunities Will Come To An End!
        - Like It Did For Paul & Barnabas There In The City Of Antioch!
  - A Further Offense:
    - 13:50 - "But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts!"
      - There Was No Change In Those Jealous Jews!
        - Instead They Persuaded Others To Join Them:
          - And Persecute & Get Rid Of Paul & Barnabas!
      - The Door To Antioch Was Now Closed To Them!
        - But What Did They Do?
          - They Kept Moving On!
    - And So - 13:51-52 - "But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. / And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost!"
      - In Ancient Times - When A Devout Jew Would Travel To A Foreign Country:

- As They Crossed The Borders Into Israel On Their Return Home:
  - They Would Stop & Take Off Their Sandals & Shake All The Dust From Those Gentile Lands From Their Feet!
- They Did Not Want To Desecrate:
  - Their Promised, Sacred Land Of Israel:
    - With Dust & Dirt From A Foreign & Godless Land!
- When Paul & Barnabas Did This:
  - They Were Showing The Unbelieving Jews:
    - That They Were No Different Than The Unbelieving Gentiles There In Antioch!
    - And It Was Time For Them To Move On!

\* And So - We Read How Paul & Barnabas Were:

## 2. *Not Ashamed In Iconium!*

- In 14:1-7 - Which Was About 90 Miles Away From Antioch: \*
- And Where The Lord Opened A New Door Of Opportunity:
  - For The Gospel!
    - Today - The Modern City Of Konya In Turkey Is Built Over The Lost Remains Of Ancient Iconium! There Are Only A Few Ruins Of Roman Origin Here & There! Like This Aqueduct! \*
- But - Upon Their Arrival:
  - God Once Again Blessed The Ministry Of The Gospel!
    - Just As He Did In Antioch!
- And So - At The Beginning - There Was:
  - Great Delight In The Gospel!
  - Because:
    - 14:1 - “And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed!”
  - The Lord Blessed:
    - The Preaching Ministry Of Paul & Barnabas!
      - And - Perhaps Paul & Barnabas Thought:
        - It Would Be Different In Iconium Than In Antioch!
    - Perhaps After Reading 14:1, We Even Think - “If Only The Story Could End There!”
      - What A Great Ending!
  - But As In Antioch:
    - There Remained In Iconium:
- Disobedience To The Gospel!
  - 14:2 - “But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren!”
    - Although Many Jews & Greeks:
      - Believed The Gospel Message They Heard!
    - Others Still Remained:
      - “Unbelieving!”
        - Of Both Jews & Gentiles!
  - The Word “Unbelieving” Is An Interesting Word:
    - Because - It Means Here - To Refuse To Be Persuaded!
      - You See - These Jews Also Heard The Message:
        - And Knew Their History & Their Scriptures!
  - But When The Truth Was Presented To Them:
    - So Clearly & So Completely:
      - They Wilfully Chose To Reject The Message About Jesus!
  - When The Gospel Is Preached:
    - There Will Be Many Who Still:
      - Disobey The Gospel!
        - They Will Still Refuse To Believe!
    - But There Can Also Be Further:
- Defiance To The Gospel!
  - Those Unbelieving Jews:
    - Instead Of Keeping Their Opinions To Themselves:

- What Did They Do?
  - They Spread Their Poison & Intolerance To Those Around Them!
- They - “Stirred Up The Gentiles, And Made Their Minds Evil Affected Against The Brethren!”
  - They Used Their Power & Influence To Turn The Minds Of The Gentiles Against:
    - Paul & Barnabas & “The Brethren!”
- Whenever The Gospel Is Preached:
  - There May Still Be An Open:
    - Defiance To The Gospel!
      - When Unbelievers Will Openly & Actively Try To Influence Others To Reject God & His Gospel!
  - Don’t We See This Happening Today?
- But What Can We Do When We Are Faced With This Kind Of Opposition?
  - The Same Thing Paul & Barnabas Did In:
    - 14:3 - “Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands!”
  - They Kept Sharing The Gospel:
    - With Even More Conviction & Courage!
      - They Were “*Not Ashamed!*”
  - They Did Not Leave & They Did Not Stay Quiet!
    - We Would Like To Think That A Great Awakening Took Place After All These Things!
    - But Hearts Were Still Hard - And We See That - There Can Still Be:
- Division To The Gospel:
  - 14:4 - “But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles!”
    - There Was A Great Divide Between:
      - The Believers & Unbelievers / Jews!
  - This Is An Illustration Of:
    - The Division And Intolerance That Comes:
      - When The Gospel Light Shines In The Darkness Of This World!
  - When The Gospel Is Preached:
    - It May Still Lead To Division!
      - Within Countries & Communities!
      - Between Friends & In Families!
      - But Even Further - There Can Be:
- Danger With The Gospel:
  - 4:5-7 - “And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them!”
  - The Division Turned Into Danger:
    - For Paul & Barnabas!
      - Because A Large Mob Got Together To Search For Them & Kill Them!
  - And The Mob Was Made Up Of Both:
    - Unbelieving Jews & Gentiles!
      - Often Enemies - But Now United Together To Get Rid Of The Gospel!
      - **IE:** “The Enemy Of My Enemy Is My Friend!”
  - The Lives Of Paul & Barnabas Were In Mortal Danger!
    - And The Reaction In Iconium Turned Out:
      - To Be *Worse* Than The Reaction In Antioch!
      - So What Did They Do?
  - Another Door Was Closed To Them:
    - And So They Moved On Again – Quickly!
      - 4:6-7 - “They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: / And there they preached the gospel!”
- When The Gospel Is Preached:
  - It May Even Lead To:
    - Great Danger!
  - After All - Remember What Jesus Said In Matthew 5:11-12 - “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. / Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before

you!”

**Conclusion:**

1. Our Desire Is For The Gospel To Penetrate Hearts & Lives:
  - Like It *First* Did In:
    - Both Antioch & Iconium!
  - But We Must Not Be Surprised When:
    - There Are Other Reactions To The Gospel!
      - Like Disobedience / Defiance / Division / Even Danger!
  - Because There Is Still:
    - An “Offense Of The Cross!” (Galatians 5:11)
      - But We Still:
        - *Must Not Be Ashamed!*
2. Instead - Let Any Opposition You Face:
  - By God’s Grace & Strength - Propel You Further:
    - In Sharing The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
      - As It Did For Paul & Barnabas!
        - 14:7 - “And There They Preached The Gospel!”
  - But How Can We Do This?
    - Listen & Remember Some Of The Last Words Of Paul:
      - Written To Timothy In - 2 Timothy 1:12 - “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day!”

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