

Today's Message

GETTING OUR ACTS TOGETHER GCF Sermon Series on the Acts of the Apostles
#22: "The Jews First, the Gentiles Next"
(A Plan for Sharing Christ with People)
Acts 13:13-52

At first glance, this segment simply continues the story of Paul, Barnabas and John Mark going to different cities and preaching the gospel. But beyond historical reporting, we find here some principles in witnessing or sharing Christ with others. As God's witnesses, we look for opportunities within our spheres of influence first, and then beyond. This may be your family, your peers, your school, your neighborhood, your organization, your office or your community. There will always be places to go to and people to share with when we are in the business of spreading the message of salvation. From other people's experiences as well as from your own, you may have discovered these lessons in the ministry of spreading the gospel.

1. Carry on even when others quit (your commitment will affect others), v. 13.
 - a. John left the team and went home, v. 13.
 - b. This later became an issue between Paul and Barnabas that led to team breakup (Acts 15: 38-40).
 - Our personalities and perspectives differ but God still chooses to use us despite our weaknesses.
2. Go where people gather and find or create the situations for sharing the good news, vv. 14-16.
 - a. On the Sabbath, Paul and Barnabas entered the synagogue where people gather, v. 14.
 - b. They were given the right opening to speak their message, vv. 15-16.
 - Think of creative ways of gathering people and wait for the right opening to share the gospel.
3. Speak of ideas and in words that are common to the audience but don't forget the gospel, vv. 17-36.
 - a. Historical notes about God's favors to Israel were common interests to the audience, vv. 17-22.
 - b. Israel was God's instrument in sending Jesus the Savior into this world, vv. 23-25.
 - Jesus as crucified, buried and risen to give salvation to all is the essence of the gospel, vv. 26-36.
4. Make the specific application and appeal, vv. 38-41.
 - a. They announced the gospel clearly: God's offer of forgiveness of sins and approval by God not attained by good works, vv. 37-39.
 - b. They warned about the danger of rejecting the offer, vv. 40-41.
5. Prepare to respond appropriately to people's actions and reactions, vv. 42-52.
 - a. Continue ministering to those who show interest, vv. 42-43.
 - b. Be prepared to be abused and expelled by those who refuse your message, vv. 44-47.
 - c. Those who receive the message and eternal life rejoiced, vv. 48-49.
 - When the Spirit is in control, there is joy among those who witness whether with positive or negative results, vv. 50-52. We lose nothing when people reject God's offer.