

March 25/26, 2006

Study Questions
The Unstoppable Church
Appointed To Eternal Life
Acts 12:25-13:52
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. What comes to mind when you think of sharing the Gospel with someone?

What initial thoughts and emotions surface? Why?

2. Because we are called by God and filled with the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses, does that mean things will always go smoothly? Why or why not?

Is tension or conflict an indication we did something wrong?

3. If we are going to take seriously God's call to be His witnesses, what should we expect and how might an accurate expectation keep us from getting discouraged?

Bible Study

1. Read Acts 12:25-13:52. Notice the emphasis on the "word of God" (see Acts 13:5, 7, 12, 15, 44, 46, 48, 49). What do we learn from this concerning the content of our message to those who don't know Jesus?
2. Notice also the number of times we are reminded of the role of the Holy Spirit in this text. What do we learn from this?
3. Based on our study of the Gospel of Mark previously and this study of Acts, often the most outspoken opposition to the truth of the Gospel comes from highly religious people. Does this seem to ring true in your own experience?

Given the emphasis on the word of God in this text, what is the key question we must continually ask religious people when discussing the Gospel?

4. What do we learn about some people according to Paul's warning in Acts 13:40, 41?

What is Paul's conclusion about these people in Acts 13:46? What does he mean? (Compare with II Corinthians 4:3, 4.)

5. What do we learn about those who believed in Acts 13:48?

In this text we have the tension between our call to do the work God has called us to (13:2) with people exercising their will to choose (13:46) and God's divine "appointment" or election to salvation (13:48). What is God's part and what is our part in accomplishing the mission?

6. How do you explain the disciples' reaction in Acts 13:52 given the circumstances of what transpired in Pisidian?

Would some consider what happened there a failure?

How does this help put our experiences in witnessing in perspective?

Application

1. In thinking about our call to be witnesses, list five key principles about witnessing from this text.
2. What is the most important thing you personally need to remember from this text concerning our call to be witnesses?
3. Pray for those unbelievers around you that God would lead you to share the right message at the right time.
4. As we head into Easter, begin to pray about those God would have you invite to Easter services and the four weeks following Easter targeting the spiritual seekers around us. Invitations will be available for you to hand deliver to those you want to invite.