

Begging for Truth
Acts 13:42-52
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show the lessons we can learn from both those who accept & reject truth.

Intro:

1. Today, just like in Bible times, there are those who want to the truth and those who do not.
2. There are those who want to hinder the truth, and those who want to hear and obey it.
3. In Acts 13:42 and following we will see both.

I. The Unbelieving Jews

A. They reject God (**v.44-45;50-52**)

1. The Jews were full of envy. Many were interested in hearing Christ and the Jews were jealous and as a result sought to hinder Paul and the truth.
 - a. Also can be defined as indignation.
2. Sadly such things still happen today. Some at out jealousy and envy still attempt to hinder those who are merely proclaiming truth.
3. Also the Jews were losing followers and attention and did not like this at all.
4. (v.50-52) – The Jews stirred up a crowd and were able to have Paul & Barnabas expelled from their region (**v.50**).
 - a. **v.51-52** – This did not deter Paul & Barnabas in doing the will of God.

B. God rejects them (**v.46**)

1. God gave the word to the Jews first but now to the Gentiles also.
 - a. Why? One reason is because they rejected the message & the messenger.
2. Paul & Barnabas tell them that by rejecting God’s word they have judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life.
 - a. They lose hope of eternal life because they will not accept & obey God’s word.

II. The Believing Gentiles

A. The foretelling (**v.47**)

1. It was foretold that this would happen (*Isa 49:6*).
2. These men would help bring salvation to the ends of the earth.
 - a. Sadly the Jews mentioned in this section were not those who would enjoy salvation due to their reject of God’s word.

B. The fulfilling (**v.48-49**)

1. Many gentiles accept Jesus.
2. It had been appointed that those who obey the gospel would have eternal life. Thus these individuals were appointed to eternal life because they obeyed the word of God.

III. Lessons for us today

A. What we learn from the Jews

1. If we do what the Jews did, then we will face the same fate the Jews faced.
2. If we want eternal life we must obey & receive God’s word (**Jn 5:24**).

B. What we learn from the Gentiles

1. We too should be eager to hear truth (**Acts 17:11**)
2. If we will obey, we will receive what they did, eternal life.

Conc:

1. Who are we like? We can know by our response to God & His word.
2. How do we respond? Are we eager or are we angry and unwilling to obey?

Hear

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Believe

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever + in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Repent

Luke 13:3

I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

Confess

Rom 10:9 — Rom 10:10

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Be baptized

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.’

Remain Faithful

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.