

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Reviling and Revival

Sunday, November 13, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 13:42–47**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

After hearing the preaching in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia, many Jews and devout God-fearing gentiles followed Paul and Barnabas—inviting them to come preach again. But the Jewish leaders reacted in anger, reviling Paul and Barnabas and contradicting their message. This led Paul to rebuke them for rejecting the Gospel, telling them that he was turning his attention to the Gentiles. Through this story we see that **the Gospel awakens some and angers others but it always advances.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Matthew 13; Romans 1:16; Romans 9:45; Isaiah 49:6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. We can get discouraged when someone doesn't share our understanding of the Gospel. Are you ever surprised by someone's reaction to the gospel message—or even surprised by your own reaction at different stages of your life?
2. What was Paul's response to those who were awakened by the message?
3. What was it about Paul's sermon that caused the Jewish leaders to respond in anger? Why were they jealous? Discuss the **content** of the gospel (what it says), and the **effect** of the gospel (what it does), and what might cause someone to revile those who are sharing it. When someone is converted, what changes? Why might that make someone angry?
4. What was Paul's response to those who were angered by the message? What should our response be if we are faced with similar reactions?
5. What is the significance of Paul's comment that "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you" (verse 46)? It was mentioned that no one is "nurtured into the kingdom." What is meant by this?
6. Are you ever surprised by how the Gospel advances in the midst of anger and other unfavorable responses? Talk about the idea that we should expect and anticipate being surprised by God's work of advancing His kingdom.