

What to Do Around Insecure, Jealous, Bitter People

09/14/14

Acts 13 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

² And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Insecure People

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

⁵ And when they reached Salamis, they *began* to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.

⁶ And when they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus,

⁷ who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

⁸ But Elymas the magician (for thus his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

⁹ But Saul, who was also *known* as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze upon him,

¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?"

¹¹ "And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand.

¹² Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.

¹³ Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Jealous People

¹⁴ But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

¹⁵ And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it."

¹⁶ And Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand, he said,

"Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:

¹⁷ "The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it.

¹⁸ "And for a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness.

¹⁹ "And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance--*all of which took* about four hundred and fifty years.

²⁰ "And after these things He gave *them* judges until Samuel the prophet.

²¹ "And then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years.

²² "And after He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.'

²³ "From the offspring of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus,

²⁴ after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel.

²⁵ "And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not *He*. But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.'

²⁶ "Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the word of this salvation is sent out.

²⁷ "For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled *these* by condemning *Him*.

²⁸ "And though they found no ground for *putting Him to death*, they asked Pilate that He be executed.

²⁹ "And when they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb.

³⁰ "But God raised Him from the dead;

³¹ and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people.

³² "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,

³³ that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'Thou art My Son; today I have begotten Thee.'

³⁴ "*And as for the fact* that He raised Him up from the dead, no more to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy *and sure blessings* of David.'

³⁵ "Therefore He also says in another *Psalm*, 'Thou wilt not allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.'

³⁶ "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay;

³⁷ but He whom God raised did not undergo decay.

³⁸ "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,

³⁹ and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

⁴⁰ "Take heed therefore, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon *you*:

⁴¹ 'Behold, you scoffers, and marvel, and perish; For I am accomplishing a work in your days, A work which you will never believe, though someone should describe it to you.'

⁴² And as Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people kept begging that these things might be spoken to them the next Sabbath.

⁴³ Now when *the meeting* of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ And the next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of God.

⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and *began* contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.

⁴⁶ And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it, and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.

⁴⁷ "For thus the Lord has commanded us, 'I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, That You should bring salvation to the end of the earth.'"

⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they *began* rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region.

⁵⁰ But the Jews aroused the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

⁵¹ But they shook off the dust of their feet *in protest* against them and went to Iconium.

⁵² And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Bitter People

Acts 14 And it came about that in Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a great multitude believed, both of Jews and of Greeks.

² But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles, and embittered them against the brethren.

³ Therefore they spent a long time *there* speaking boldly *with reliance* upon the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.

⁴ But the multitude of the city was divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles.

⁵ And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them,

⁶ they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region;

⁷ and there they continued to preach the gospel.

⁸ And at Lystra there was sitting a certain man, without strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked.

⁹ This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze upon him, and had seen that he had faith to be made well,

¹⁰ said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and *began* to walk.

¹¹ And when the multitudes saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us."

¹² And they *began* calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

¹³ And the priest of Zeus, whose *temple* was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

¹⁴ But when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out

¹⁵ and saying,

"Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you in order that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them.

¹⁶ "And in the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways;

¹⁷ and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

¹⁸ And *even* saying these things, they with difficulty restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

¹⁹ But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

²⁰ But while the disciples stood around him, he arose and entered the city. And the next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe.

²¹ And after they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.