



The Book of Acts

Living Holy in the Family of God

Volume Three

Acts 11-15

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Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best. Other friends from Korea have helped in proof reading books for ChristAssembly.org, with our thanks in Christ Jesus for their friendship and faithful labors.

Beverly and I have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.

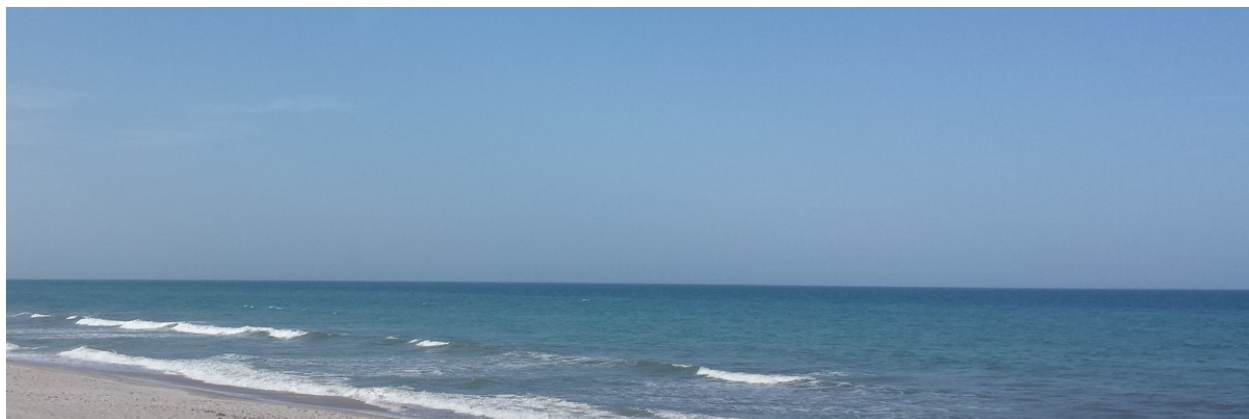


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1

Introduction

At Caesarea the Gentiles received the word of God and ripple effects began spreading through the church. When Peter returned to Jerusalem from Caesarea, he immediately explained how the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles at Caesarea and they were baptized. The circumcision group in Jerusalem initially questioned why Peter went to uncircumcised men and ate with them. Peter then explained how God had given him a vision about not calling anything God has cleansed unholy or unclean. Having heard from Peter, they quieted down and glorified God.

The saints scattered abroad through persecution made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, proclaiming Jesus to no one but the Jews. The Lord blessed their ministry and a large number of Greeks at Antioch came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That news reached the Jerusalem church and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. His ministry at Antioch thrived because he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Barnabas then left for Tarsus to look for Saul and brought him back to Antioch. For an entire year they ministered in Antioch together and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. Later, the church at Antioch sent Saul and Barnabas to Jerusalem with a contribution for the poor.

Meanwhile, Herod had James the brother of John put to death with a sword and then turned his attention to Peter and had him arrested. An angel of the Lord led Peter out of the prison and he made his way to the disciples.

Herod became very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, but they depended upon him for food. They sought peace with Herod. One day he took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address. The people cried out that they heard the voice of a god and not a man. Immediately an angel of the Lord struck Herod because he did not give God the glory and he was eaten by worms and died. The word of the Lord, however, continued to grow and to be multiplied. Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, taking along John Mark with them to Antioch.

At Antioch the Holy Spirit called Saul and Barnabas to a new work. They went to the island of Cyprus and proclaimed Christ to the people of Cyprus. They also worked miracles of healing and many people came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Having left Cyprus, they passed on to Perga and Pamphylia, where John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. Saul and Barnabas continued on to Pisidian Antioch and proclaimed Christ in the synagogue there. Many of the Jews and God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas. The next Sabbath the whole city turned out to hear the word of the Lord. The Jews saw the crowds and opposed Paul and Barnabas. They then turned to the Gentiles and proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ to them. The Gentiles began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. The Jews drove Paul and Barnabas out of their district and they went on to Iconium. They were continually filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

At Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews and many people believed, both Jews and Greeks. Again, the Jews stirred up trouble and opposed Paul and Barnabas. Some people in the city tried to stone them and they left and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region. They continued to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Jews from Antioch and Iconium pursued them and dragged Paul out of the city and stoned him, leaving him for dead. The disciples, however, gathered around him and he got up and entered the city. The next day they moved on to Derby. Paul and Barnabas retraced their steps, strengthening the souls of the disciples and encouraging them to continue in the faith. They appointed elders for them in every church and commended them to the Lord in Whom they had believed.

They passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia. When they had spoken the word at Perga, they went to the coast and returned to Antioch, where they had been commended to the work. There they spent a long time with the disciples.

Some men came down from Judea and began teaching that unless people were circumcised, they could not go to heaven. Paul and Barnabas disputed greatly with them and it was decided that they should go to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders concerning this issue. When the apostles and elders came together, they had much debate. Paul recounted

how the Gentiles had heard the word of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and believed and how God had testified to their salvation by giving them the Holy Spirit.

After Paul and Barnabas finished speaking, James proclaimed that the prophecies of Joel had been fulfilled. Likewise, he advised that the Gentiles should abstain from things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood, because Moses is preached in the synagogues every Sabbath. Therefore, it seemed good to the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to choose two men, Judas and Silas, from among themselves and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They carried a letter from the Jerusalem church providing for the terms described by James to avoid further conflict with the Jews about the Sabbath and the law of Moses. The Antioch church sent away Judas and Silas in peace, but Silas chose to remain in Antioch, being a prophet himself.

After some days Paul said to Barnabas that they should return and visit the churches in every city where they had proclaimed the word of the Lord. Barnabas wanted to take John Mark, but Paul objected. Eventually, Paul took Silas with him and Barnabas took John Mark. Barnabas returned to Cypress, the land where he was born. Paul took Silas, having been commended by the church in Antioch, and they visited many churches in Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

HALLELUJAH !

2

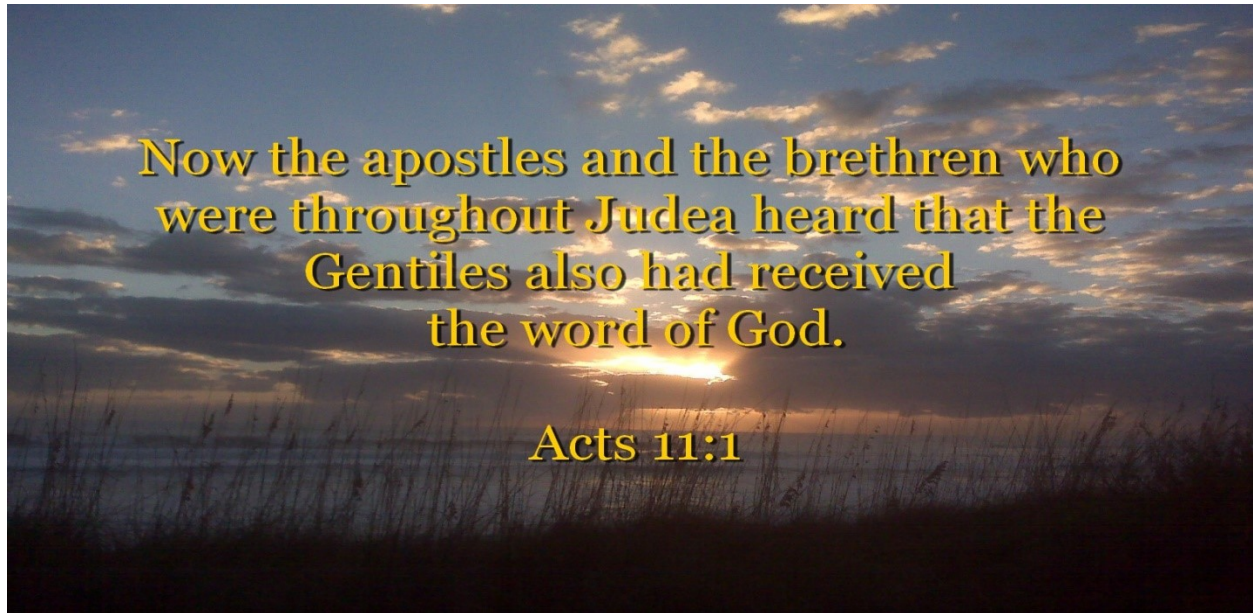
Gentiles and Jerusalem Today

God called Peter to Caesarea to witness the Gentiles receive the Lord Jesus Christ by grace through faith and the gift of the Holy Spirit. When Peter returned to Jerusalem, some men of the circumcision took issue with him eating with Gentiles. Peter gave a long description of how the Lord gave him a vision showing him that what God has cleansed, no man should consider unholy or unclean. Therefore, Peter understood that the Gentiles were welcome by Jesus into the church. God gave the Gentiles the same gift of the Holy Spirit as the Jews had received previously. Having heard Peter's remarks, the men of the circumcision quieted down and glorified God acknowledging that God also had granted repentance that leads to life to the Gentiles.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 385

Judea Today



What did the apostles and brethren throughout Judea hear? They heard that the Gentiles received the word of God.

Peter had a vision in Joppa in which he saw a sheet lowered from heaven, filled with unclean animals. The Lord told him to kill and eat, but Peter declined, saying he never eaten anything like that in his life. Peter learned, however, that God was speaking to him concerning the Gentiles. What God had cleansed, he should no longer consider unholy or unclean. Therefore, the Gentiles were welcomed into the church on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. God did not show partiality towards anyone when it comes to salvation.

News of the Caesarean Pentecost spread quickly. The apostles and the brethren in Judea heard about the Holy Spirit falling upon the Gentiles in Caesarea and how they had spoken in tongues and were baptized. While the rejoicing was great over their conversion, new issues arose in the church.

The Gentiles did not grow up following the Law of Moses, but the Jews did, at least in theory. God certainly opened the doors to the Gentiles to join

the church by faith in Jesus Christ and they did. Now both Jews and Gentiles had to be integrated into one body, the church.

Gentiles

1. **Apostles**. Who received the word of God? The Gentiles received the word of God and the apostles heard that news.

2. **Brethren**. Likewise, the brethren heard that the Gentiles received the word of God.

3. **Judea**. In fact, that news spread throughout all Judea.

4. **Heard**. When the apostles and brethren heard the news about the Gentiles receiving the word of God, things were about to change for everyone.

5. **Received**. When the Gentiles received the word of God, they spoke in tongues just like the apostles in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

6. **Word**. Living holy in the family of God means that the word of God saves both Jews and Gentiles by faith.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because both Jews and Gentiles received the word of God and became members of the church of Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the salvation of the Jews and Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the word of God came to both Jews and Gentiles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending His word through Peter to Jews and Gentiles.**

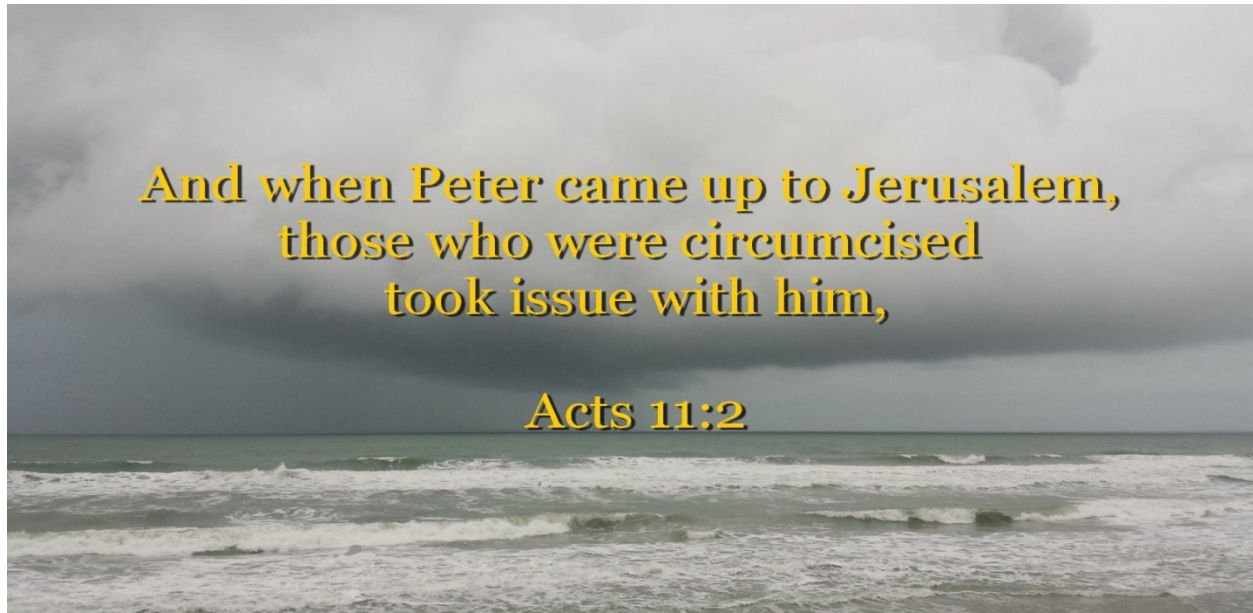
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that both Jews and Gentiles are saved by the word of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He does not respect persons and sends the word of God to both Jews and Gentiles?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 386

Jerusalem Today



What happened when Peter came up to Jerusalem? Those who were circumcised took issue with him.

Peter understood from his trance in Joppa that God was no respecter of persons and everyone was welcome to God by faith in Jesus Christ. God only has one church for all people of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Therefore, both Jews and Gentiles would have to learn how to live together as fellow members of the body of Christ.

The circumcised believers followed the Law. They did not yet understand how Christ became the end of the Law for all those who were saved by faith. The Law could never save anyone, but served as a reminder year-by-year of the sinfulness of people. Only the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ could take away sins and that atonement happens by faith in Christ dying on the cross and being resurrected.

The circumcised believers never comprehended how Jesus fulfilled the Law and died under the law so that all believers could live by grace through faith and no longer be tied to the Law. The problem of people seeking to

follow the Law would pose big problems as the Gentiles grew in numbers within the church.

Circumcised

1. **Peter**. Who took issue with Peter? The circumcised took issue with Peter.
2. **Came**. Peter left Caesarea and went up to Jerusalem.
3. **Jerusalem**. When he arrived in Jerusalem, he met opposition for what he did at Caesarea.
4. **Circumcised**. The circumcised believers in Jerusalem were there to greet them and take issue with him.
5. **Issue**. The issue centered around Peter associating with Gentiles and foreigners.
6. **With**. Living holy in the family of God means that the circumcised believers took issue with Peter because they did not understand the Word of Wisdom given to Peter concerning the Gentiles.
7. **Him**. We rejoice today because Peter saw with his own eyes both the vision of the sheet lowered from heaven and God's command to kill and eat and the Holy Spirit falling upon the Caesarean believers so that they spoke in tongues in the presence of many witnesses.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the circumcised believers taking issue with Peter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that Peter believed the message God spoke to him through a Word of Wisdom.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by being united together as Jews and Gentiles in one body, the church of Jesus Christ, even if some early believers of the circumcision took issue with Peter.**

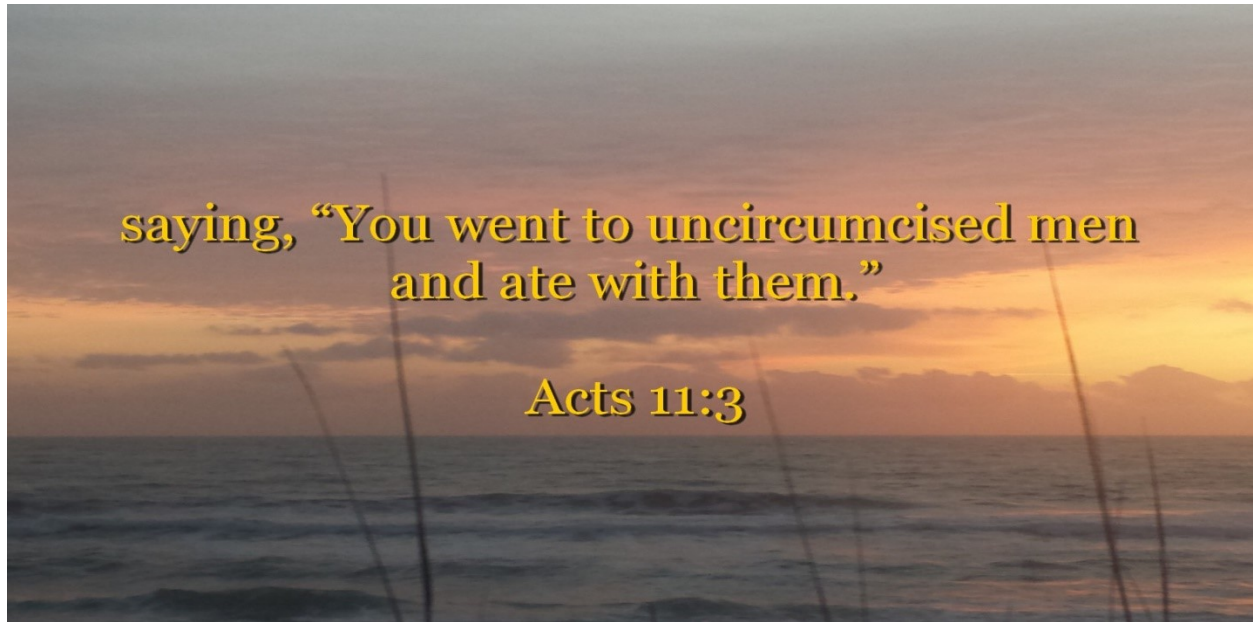
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding the issues the circumcised believers had with Peter regarding the Gentiles at Caesarea and his interaction with them. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His mercies with both Jews and Gentiles?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 387

Uncircumcised Today



What charge did the circumcised believers bring against Peter? They charged Peter with going in and eating with the Gentiles.

Previously, Peter had told the Lord in the trance that he would not eat of the unclean animals. Likewise, at Caesarea Peter had told the audience there that it was improper for a Jew to associate with Gentiles. Therefore, Peter was fully aware of the Jewish practices regarding the Gentiles.

Peter received a Word of Wisdom from God and now the Word of Knowledge would come into full play. The Word of Wisdom was the revelation of the mystery of Christ that the Gentiles were welcome in the church. The Word of Wisdom now concerned how to apply that knowledge so that the church would function properly and receive Gentiles into the church and how the Old Testament Law related to the life of the church.

Those issues would pose very serious matters for the church. Some people would argue for keeping the Old Testament Law, while others claimed

that salvation by faith in Christ put an end to the Law. The conflict would grow brighter and broader before it was resolved over time.

Ate with Them

1. **Saying**. How did Peter enlighten the circumcised believers? He began by saying what happened in Caesarea and Joppa.

2. **You**. The circumcised believers took issue saying you, Peter, associated with Gentiles, contrary to the Law of Moses.

3. **Went**. Peter went to the Gentiles and that upset the circumcised believers in Jerusalem.

4. **Uncircumcised**. Peter went to the uncircumcised Gentiles in Caesarea only after he had the vision in Joppa where God told him not to call any man that God had cleansed unholy or unclean.

5. **Men**. The circumcised Jews in Jerusalem were very concerned that Peter was not obeying the Law of Moses by going to men considered unclean and unholy by many Jews.

6. **Ate**. Living holy in the family of God means that God told Peter it was okay to eat with Gentiles who had been cleansed by God.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because Peter ate with them, talked with them, and ordered them to be baptized after they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues, showing that they were saved by faith in Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Peter faced opposition in Jerusalem from the circumcised when he returned from Caesarea.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting that some people will not understand what God is doing and will need explanations.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by explaining that God does not show partiality to any, and Jews and Gentiles can associate together in the body of Christ with His blessing.**

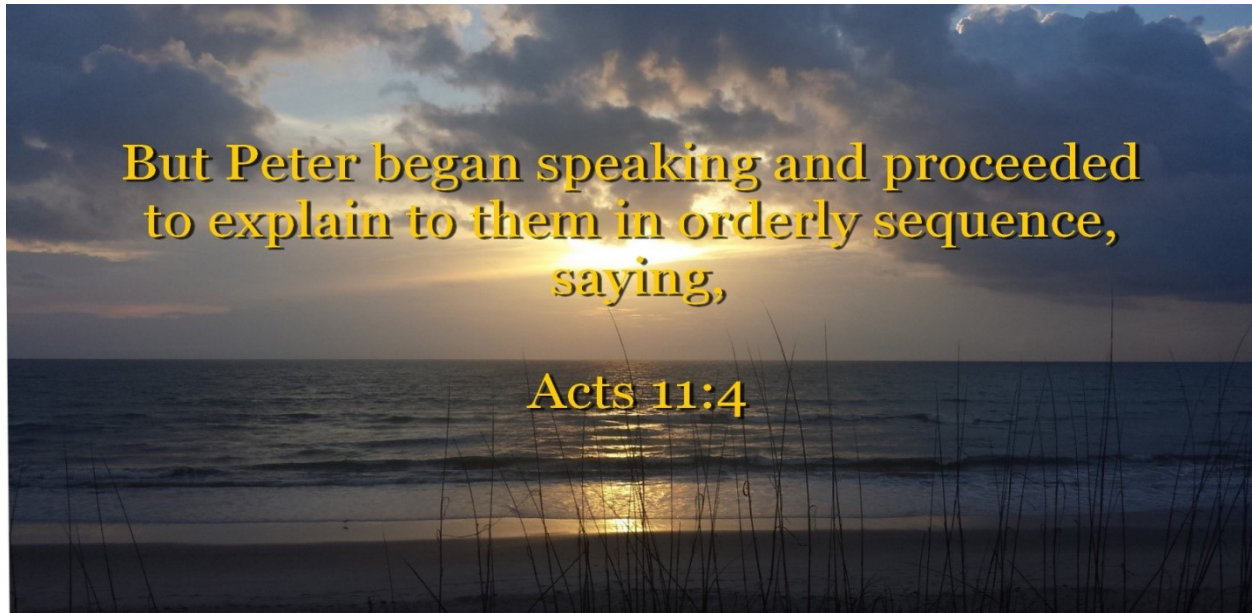
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He helps us explain that Jews and Gentiles are both welcome in the body of Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting that you will have to explain to some believers that God never shows partiality to anyone?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 388

Explain Today



How did Peter respond to the charges? Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them an orderly sequence.

Peter came from Caesarea. With multiple eyewitnesses, Peter saw firsthand the fulfillment of the trance concerning the sheet with the unclean animals. God told him to no longer consider any person unclean or unholy that God had cleansed. Now the time had come for the Word of Knowledge to provide understanding about how to apply that revelation received from God.

God had brought the Gentiles into the church at Caesarea. They had spoken in tongues and Peter had ordered them to be baptized. By the grace of God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Gentiles had just become fellow members of the body of Christ. By welcoming the Gentiles into the church and associating with them, Peter began the process of integrating them into the church filled with people who never associated with them in their entire lives and considered them unholy and unclean.

The Word of Knowledge helped Peter understand how to apply the mystery God revealed to him in Joppa with a sheet and at Caesarea with the crowd speaking in tongues. Now Peter would help the church understand God's program for Jews and Gentiles in one church body.

Sequence

1. **But**. How did Peter respond to the circumcised Jews who took issue with them for associating with the Gentiles in Caesarea? Peter provided an explanation of events based on his eyewitness accounts.

2. **Peter**. Peter had never eaten anything unholy or unclean in his life, but God changed his mind.

3. **Explain**. Based upon what he had seen and heard in both Joppa and Caesarea, Peter began to explain to the circumcised believers in Jerusalem what God had revealed to him.

4. **Them**. Peter educated the circumcised believers by carefully explaining what he had seen and heard about Gentiles coming into the church.

5. **Orderly**. Peter talked in an orderly way, setting forth the revelation he received from God at Joppa and then his experience at Caesarea.

6. **Sequence**. Living holy in the family of God means that explaining things in an orderly sequence can help people understand how revelation from God helps us understand experience with other people.

7. **Saying**. We rejoice today because Peter was saying in words the revelation he had received from God concerning the Gentiles and how that played out with the Gentiles in Caesarea.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter explaining to the circumcised in Jerusalem why he associated with the Gentiles at Caesarea.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking the time to explain things in an organized and orderly manner.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He helps us explain things to people so that they can grasp the word of God.**

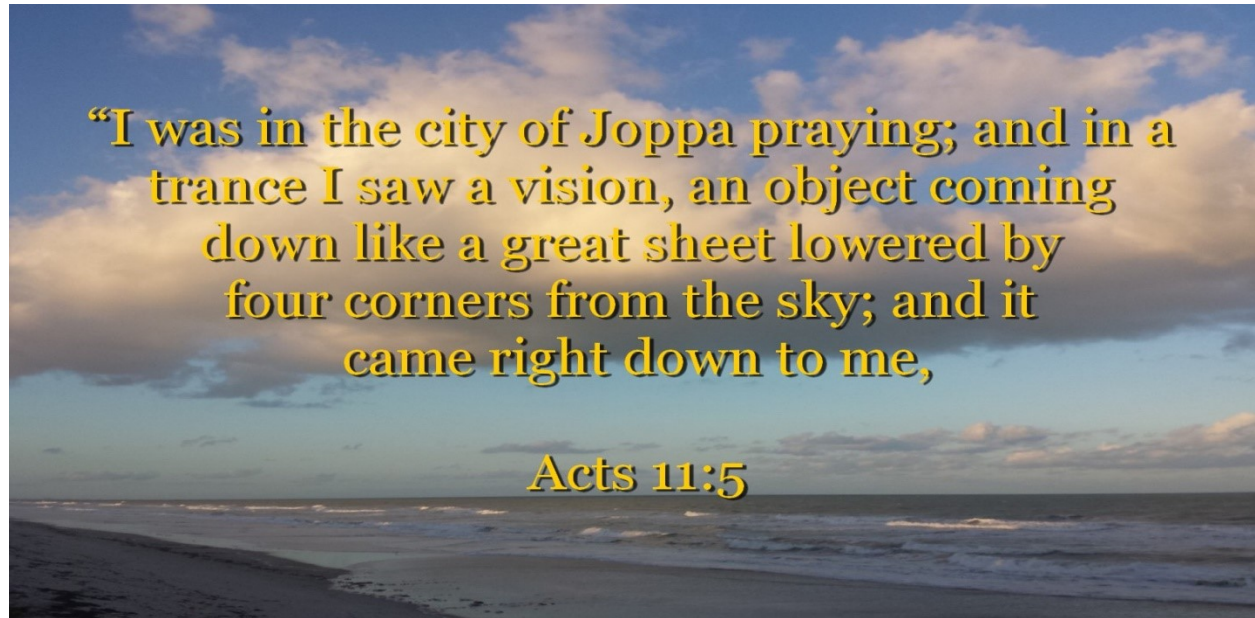
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking the time to explain the word of God to people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by carefully explaining in an orderly fashion the reasons from the Bible supporting our actions?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 389

Praying Today



Where did Peter begin his message to the circumcised Jews? Peter began with his trance in Joppa.

Peter described his trance as seeing a vision of a sheet lowered from heaven. The sheet was lowered by four corners to the earth right in front of Peter. Peter was receiving a Word of Wisdom concerning the Gentiles and considering all things and all people clean once God has cleansed them. The Gentiles should not be considered unholy or unclean and Jesus had previously cleansed all things under the Law.

All the old prohibitions against associating and eating with Gentiles no longer applied now that Christ had come and made atonement. The Jews lived under the Law as a tutor leading them to Christ. Christ had died on the cross and made full atonement for sins and then was resurrected. Through His death on the cross and His resurrection, the Law was fulfilled and was no longer in force for believers, both Gentile and Jew.

Peter had a large task in front of him to educate the circumcised about God showing no partiality towards Jews and Gentiles. God never said that all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Jews were no longer in effect.

Vision

1. **I.** What did Peter tell his circumcised friends in Jerusalem about the sheet? He explained the revelation from God concerning the sheet to them.

2. **City.** Peter recounted what happened in Joppa when he was on the rooftop at the house of Simon the Tanner.

3. **Praying.** Peter was praying up there when he fell into a trance.

4. **Trance.** Within his trance on the rooftop Peter saw something like a great sheet lowered from heaven.

5. **Sheet.** Peter saw the sheet held by four corners being lowered to the ground.

6. **Lowered.** Living holy in the family of God means that a great sheet was lowered to the ground right before Peter in his trance in Joppa.

7. **Sky.** We rejoice today because the trance included the sheet being lowered from the sky down to Peter so that Peter could understand that God does not show partiality to anyone.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the trance of Peter in Joppa on the rooftop.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God used the sheet lowered from heaven to teach Peter about the Gentiles coming into the church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the different ways He revealed things to the apostles and prophets of the New Testament.**

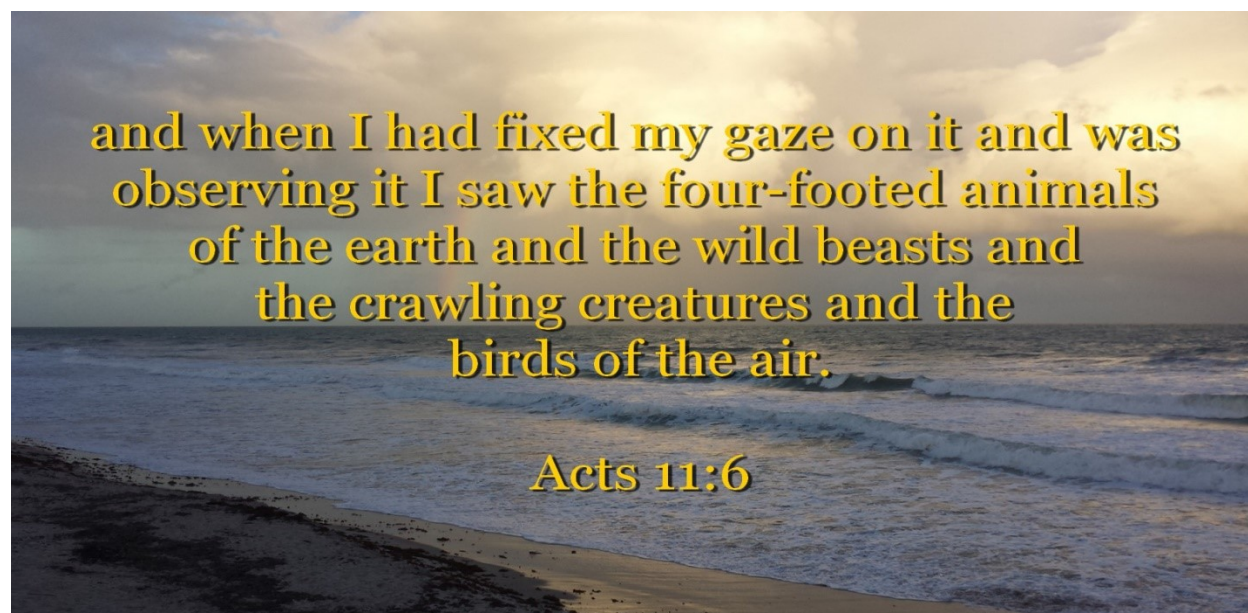
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the revelations He gives to help us live together in unity as Jews and Gentiles in one church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reading the Bible to understand the unfolding revelation of God concerning His church composed of both Jews and Gentiles living in spiritual harmony?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 390

Observing Today



What did Peter see in the sheet? Peter saw four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air.

Peter provided details of different kinds of animals in the sheet. God had provided strict dietary laws concerning clean and unclean animals. Those dietary laws form part of the Law of Moses. The Old Testament Law was designed to show people how sinful they were.

Salvation never came through the Old Testament Law. The blood of bulls and goats could never make atonement for sin. While God prescribed sacrifices and instituted a day of atonement each year, all those things were designed to show people how much they needed a Savior. The blood sacrifices pictured Christ giving His blood later to save people from their sins. By dying on the cross, Jesus made complete atonement once and for all. Therefore, the sacrifices described under the Law were no longer required because they were no longer pointing forward towards Christ coming. He had already come and salvation meant being born again and becoming a brand-new creature in Christ. No more reminder of sinfulness was needed because

all sins had been forgiven through Christ when they were laid upon Him at the cross and He suffered the death penalty for all of our sins. Christ died for us, making complete atonement for all of our sons once and for all.

Animals

1. **When**. As Peter gazed upon the sheet, what was in it? Peter saw animals and beasts and birds in the sheet.

2. **Fixed**. As this sheet was lowered from heaven, Peter fixed his eyes upon it.

3. **Gaze**. Peter fixed his gaze upon the sheet as it was lowered from heaven as part of the vision that Peter had on the rooftop of the home of Simon the Tanner in Joppa.

4. **Animals**. Peter saw four-footed animals in the sheet.

5. **Beasts**. He also saw wild beasts in the sheet.

6. **Crawling**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter also saw crawling creatures in the sheet. Peter also saw unclean animals in the sheet and recognized them as things he would never eat because he followed the Old Testament Law with its dietary regulations.

7. **Birds**. We rejoice today because Peter also saw birds of the air in his vision and he knew that God was giving him a revelation of great significance, even if he did not understand the message right away.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter fixing his gaze upon the sheet lowered down from the sky.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for revealing to Peter that God no longer required strict compliance to the Old Testament dietary laws.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by living in obedience to Christ Who fulfilled the Law and its requirements by dying on the cross once and for all.**

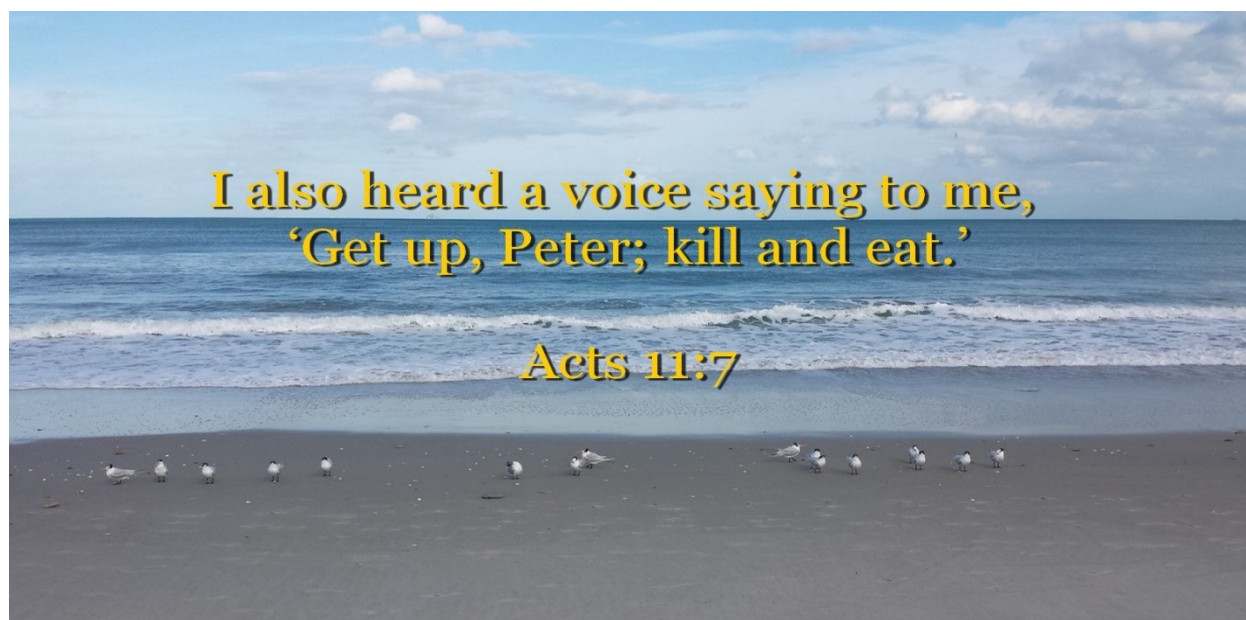
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God revealed to Peter the vision of the sheet with animals God had cleansed. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that vision of the sheet that God used to reveal to Peter that Gentiles are welcome in the church because He had cleansed them with the blood of Christ by faith?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 391

Heard Today



What did the voice say to Peter? The voice told Peter to get up, kill and eat.

Peter saw the sheet filled with unclean animals. He knew that those animals could never form a part of his diet. In fact, he had never eaten any of those animals his entire life.

When the voice came from heaven telling him to kill and eat those animals, the faith of Peter was greatly disturbed. All that he had learned about the dietary laws of the Old Testament and associating with Gentiles and foreigners conflicted with the directions from the voice.

The voice was revealing something new to Peter. In the Old Testament God had told Abraham that all the families of the earth would be blessed through him, including Jews and Gentiles. The depths of that promise were not fully explained in the Old Testament. In the wisdom of God they were now being revealed through the apostles and prophets of the New Testament, including Peter as the point man. What Peter experienced at Joppa in the vision opened Peter to understanding how the Gentiles would be welcomed

into the church and traditional prohibitions against associating with them no longer applied after the death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection.

Voice

1. **I**. What did Peter say about the vision in Joppa? Peter said he heard a voice speaking to him.

2. **Heard**. Not only did Peter see a sheet lowered to earth, but he heard a voice calling him to action.

3. **Voice**. Although Peter heard a voice, he did not see a person.

4. **Up**. The voice commanded Peter to get up.

5. **Peter**. The voice knew Peter by name.

6. **Kill**. Living holy in the family of God means that the voice commanded Peter to get up, kill and eat the animals in the sheet lowered to earth.

7. **Eat**. We rejoice today because God told Peter to eat animals Peter considered unclean because God had cleansed those animals once and for all.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by listening to God when He talks to us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering God directing Peter to eat animals he considered unclean.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He gave Peter a vision indicating God had cleansed the unclean animals.**

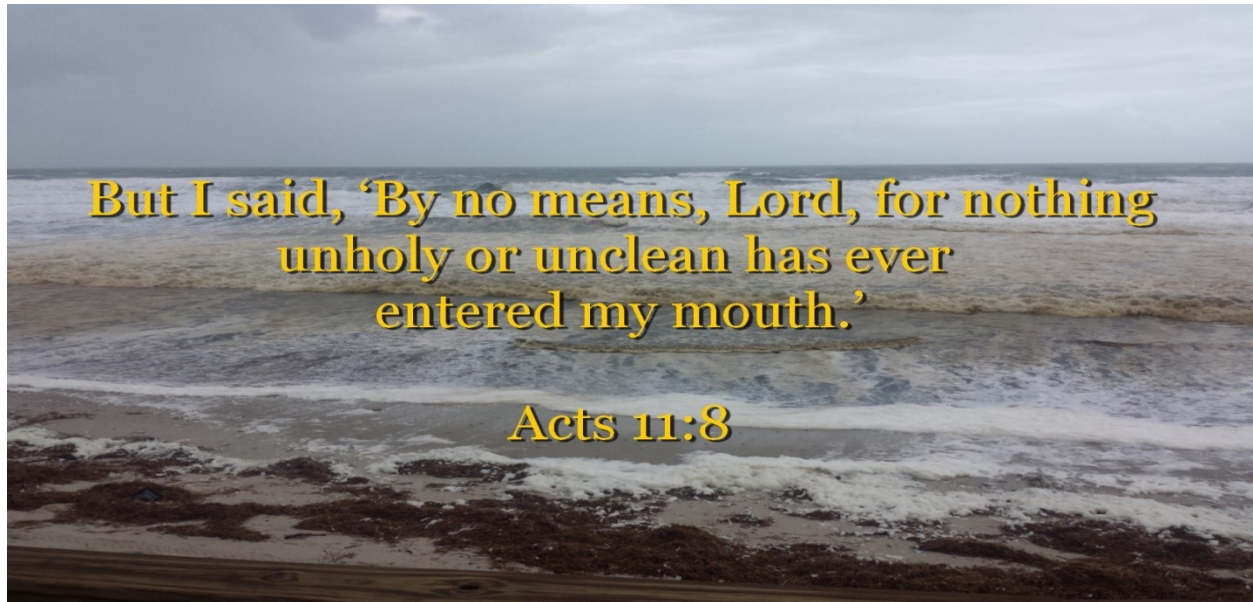
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God has the power to cleanse all animals and all people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the vision He gave to Peter regarding God cleansing the animals?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 392

I Said Today



How did Peter respond to the Lord's command to eat? Peter said by no means would he do that.

Peter recounted to the circumcised believers in Jerusalem what happened at Caesarea. In order to understand what happened at Caesarea, Peter started with what happened in Joppa. While Peter was on a rooftop at the home of Simon the Tanner in Joppa, he had a vision where he saw a sheet lowered by four corners to the earth. Inside the sheet were all kinds of unclean animals. The Lord told him to kill and eat. Peter then replied by no means would he do that because he had never eaten anything unholy or unclean in his entire life.

As a devout Jew, Peter followed the dietary laws of the Old Testament. Those laws prohibit eating certain animals. Peter recognized some of the animals that the Lord told him to kill and eat as unclean. The Lord was making a point to Peter that he should not consider anything the Lord had cleansed as unholy or unclean. Peter came to understand that the Lord was actually talking about the Gentiles.

The circumcised Jews were very unhappy with Peter for associating with the Gentiles at Caesarea. Actually, however, Peter had news for the circumcised Jews.

No

1. **But**. Why did Peter reply to the Lord using the word “but”? Peter objected to following the voice’s command.

2. **I**. Peter objected to the command saying I have never broken the dietary laws of the Old Testament. Peter thought he was relying upon God’s word to object, but did not understand that the old covenant had passed away.

3. **Said**. Peter stated his objection, but the voice was not finished with him.

4. **No**. Peter said no because he thought he was doing God’s will by not eating.

5. **Lord**. Peter addressed the voice of the Lord showing respect, but still objected. Peter may have thought he was being tested. Yet, God does not tempt anyone to sin.

6. **Nothing**. Living holy in the family of God means that we must be careful to listen to God and His word rather than rely upon our own thoughts and feelings.

7. **Mouth**. We rejoice today because God used Peter to show that God had cleansed the Gentiles and no man should call what God has cleansed unholy or unclean and refuse to associate with Gentile believers.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by accepting His revelations contained in the Bible as true.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by testing our thoughts and reactions against His word in the Bible.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He used Peter to welcome all believing Gentiles into the church.**

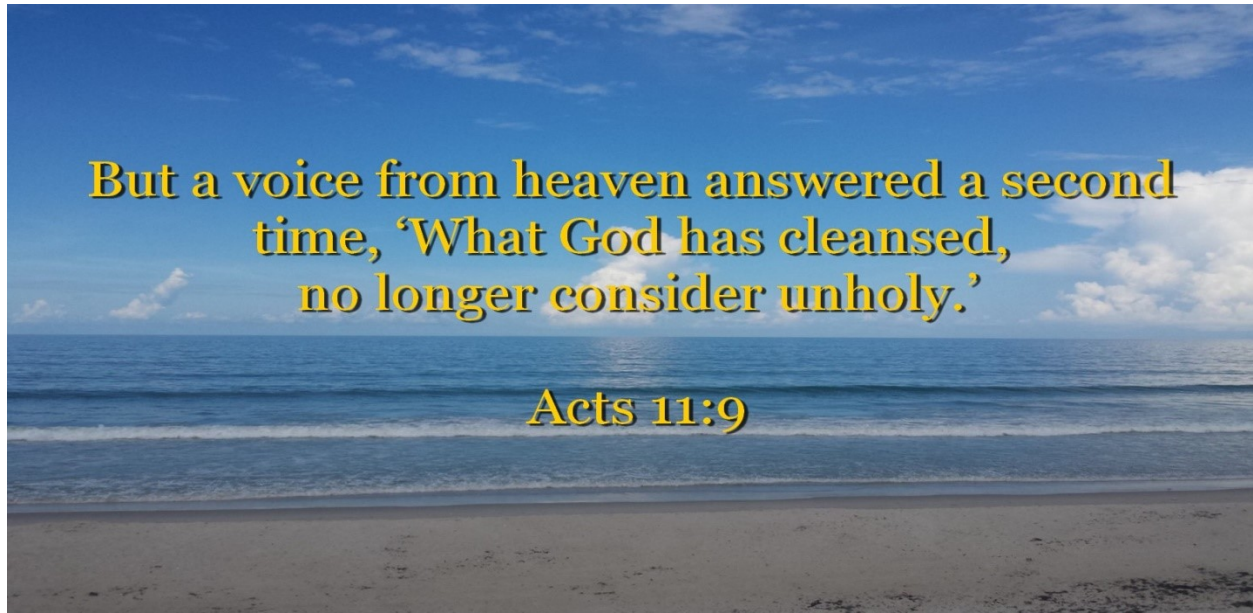
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation as Jews and Gentiles in the same church with the same Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by welcoming without partiality new believers into the church?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 393

Voice Today



What did the voice say from heaven the second time? The voice said that what God had cleansed, no longer consider unholy.

Peter often talked with Jesus and spoke his mind freely to Jesus. At times Peter opposed what Jesus told him. For example, when the Lord Jesus wanted to wash the feet of Peter, Peter declined the service Jesus sought to perform. Peter had strong ideas and often spoke without serious consideration before blurting out the words. Therefore, when the Lord told Peter to kill and eat, Peter declared he would do no such thing, despite the Lord commanding him to do it.

At times in our lives we act like Peter. We have done things a certain way for many years, believing that that was God's way. But then the Lord commands us to do things His way and we react negatively.

God was always patient with Peter, just as He is with us. God understands that the first time He tells us something we should absolutely obey Him because He is God. Yet, we tend to rely upon our past experience

as a guide to the future, instead of listening to God commanding us what to do right now.

Second Time

1. **But**. How did the voice respond to Peter's "but"? The voice responded with "but."

2. **Voice**. The voice speaking to Peter was leading Peter to understand that God had cleansed all things and the dietary restrictions under the old covenant no longer applied. More importantly, however, faith in Jesus Christ cleanses all people from all sins and what God has cleansed, no person should consider unclean.

3. **Second**. God demonstrated His great patience by answering Peter a second time. Later, Peter would have to use the same patience in explaining to Jews and Gentiles what God had shown him about the salvation of both Jews and Gentiles.

4. **God**. God loves both the Jews and the Gentiles. Jesus died for everyone on earth, but His sacrifice only provides salvation through faith in Him.

5. **Cleansed**. By the blood of Jesus Christ shed on the cross, God opened the only way to the Father by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. What God has cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ applied to people, both Jews and Gentiles all over the world, no person, whether Jew or Gentile, should consider unholy or unclean.

6. **No**. Living holy in the family of God means that no person should consider another person cleansed by God as unholy or unclean.

7. **Unholy**. We rejoice today because God has cleansed both Jews and Gentiles by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ by grace through faith so that no person should consider any person, whether Jew or Gentile, unholy or unclean.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for His plans and patience with people like us who do not understand His plans and purposes the first time He explains them to us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that nothing that God has cleansed should be considered by anyone as unholy or unclean.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God that we were unholy and unclean and by His grace through faith He cleansed us.**

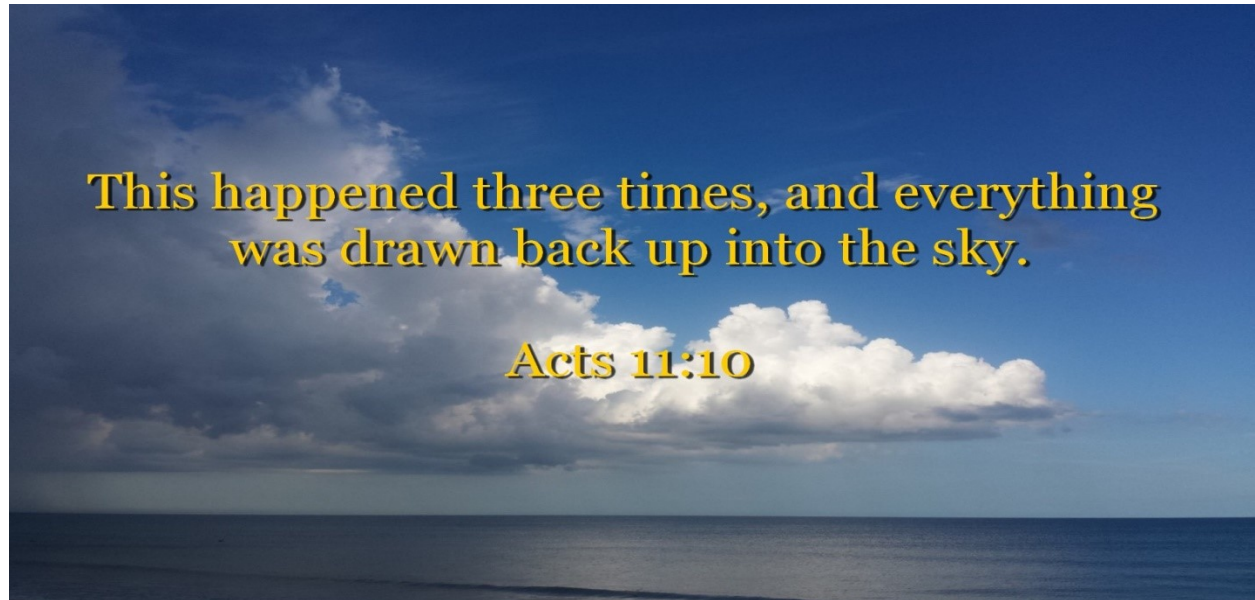
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation so that God no longer considers us unholy or unclean. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God does not consider any person He has cleansed as unholy or unclean?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 394

Three Times Today



What happened three times? God told Peter three times to get up and kill and eat.

God had given Peter a Word of Wisdom. The Word of Wisdom consisted of a revelation of something new that was previously hidden. In the Old Testament, God had told Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed in him, including the Gentiles. Yet, the Gentiles were not favored by God like the Jews were.

The Jews did not associate with the Gentiles because of their unclean ways. Jesus met the woman at the well and she was a Samaritan. When Jesus asked her for a drink, she replied that she was surprised that Jesus, who was both a male and a Jew, was asking her for a drink, for the Jews had nothing to do with the Samaritans.

Jesus changed everything concerning Jews and Gentiles being welcome by God. First, Peter had to understand that God could cleanse Gentiles just like he cleansed Jews, by faith in Christ as Savior. God is not

partial to any because Jesus is the Savior for all those who call upon God by faith, according to the Scriptures.

Drawn Back

1. **This**. How many times did the voice reply to Peter? The voice replied three times to Peter.

2. **Three**. Three times indicates that Peter did not understand and accept what God was saying immediately, but God had great patience with Peter.

3. **Everything**. After three times, everything was drawn back up into the sky.

4. **Drawn**. Just as God lowered the sheet down to earth, so God raised the sheet back into the sky.

5. **Back**. By drawing the sheet back into the sky, God's audio-visual revelation to Peter had ended, but Peter had not yet grasped the full significance of what he had seen.

6. **Into**. Living holy in the family of God means that God raised the sheet back into heaven, signifying that Peter had received the complete revelation and now the time had come to apply that revelation to people entering the church.

7. **Sky**. We rejoice today because God not only lowered the sheet down to earth, but one day He will lift all believers alive on earth to meet Him at the Clouds Resurrection.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God shows us some things three times before we grasp their significance.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for His great patience in working with us and showing us His will.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God loves us without partiality and unites us by His grace.**

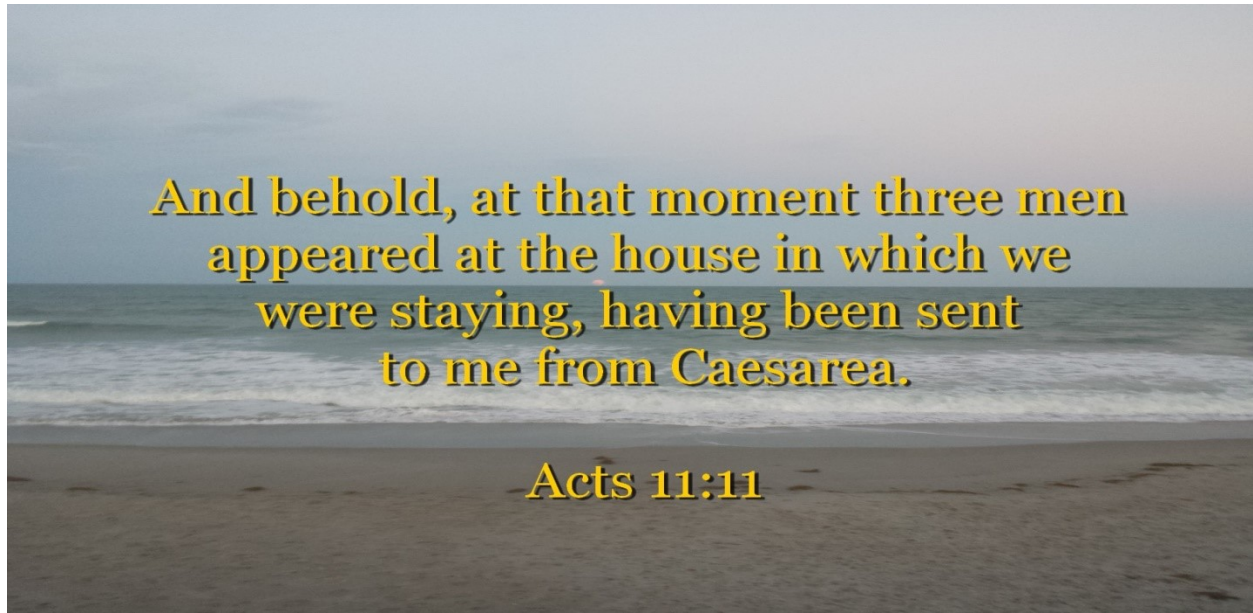
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by listening to God first. Will you live holy in the family of God today by practicing each day what God has revealed to us in the Bible?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 395

Appeared Today



What happened next? At the moment the sheet was lifted back into heaven three men appeared at the house where Peter was staying.

Those three men came from Cornelius of Caesarea, a centurion in the Roman army, of the Italian cohort. Earlier, Cornelius had had a vision in which he saw an angel of God who directed him to bring Peter to Caesarea and listen to the message God had commanded Peter to speak to them.

God spoke to Cornelius first and so he dispatched three trusted men to go to Joppa and find Peter and bring him back to Caesarea. God was working with a man in Caesarea and was working with Peter in Joppa to bring them together. Cornelius immediately sent out the three men to Joppa and they arrived the next day at the home of Simon the Tanner. As they stood at the gate of the home of Simon the Tanner, Peter received word from the Holy Spirit to go outside and meet them and go to Caesarea with them without misgivings.

Peter remained perplexed about what the vision of the sheet meant. Unmistakably God was drawing him to Caesarea and Peter understood what

was going to happen, but he did not understand why it was happening and asked the three men why they had come. Peter would understand shortly the great truths that would change his mind about Gentiles forever.

From Caesarea

1. **Behold**. As soon as the vision of the sheet ended, what happened next for Peter? Behold three men appeared at the gate of the house of Simon the Tanner where he was staying.

2. **Moment**. Those men appeared at the very moment the sheet was raised back into the sky. The very precise timing of God helped Peter understand the vision. The three men appeared at just the right time.

3. **Three**. Those three men had been sent by Cornelius of Caesarea. An angel had appeared to him and told him to send for Peter at Joppa at the house of Simon the Tanner and bring him to Caesarea where he would proclaim a message from God.

4. **Appeared**. The men reached the house of Simon the Tanner and appeared at the gate at just the right moment, having traveled more than thirty miles from Caesarea.

5. **House**. Peter was on the housetop at Joppa in a trance which ended at just the right moment.

6. **Sent**. Living holy in the family of God means that God always displays impeccable timing so that our lives follow His purposes and plans without delay.

7. **Caesarea**. We rejoice today because Cornelius of Caesarea obeyed the vision he received and acted promptly so that the three men he sent arrive timely.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by considering the timing of events as an expression of God's plan for our life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by acting promptly upon God's commands without delay.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by recognizing how God links events in our life to show us His purposes and plans for ourselves and others.**

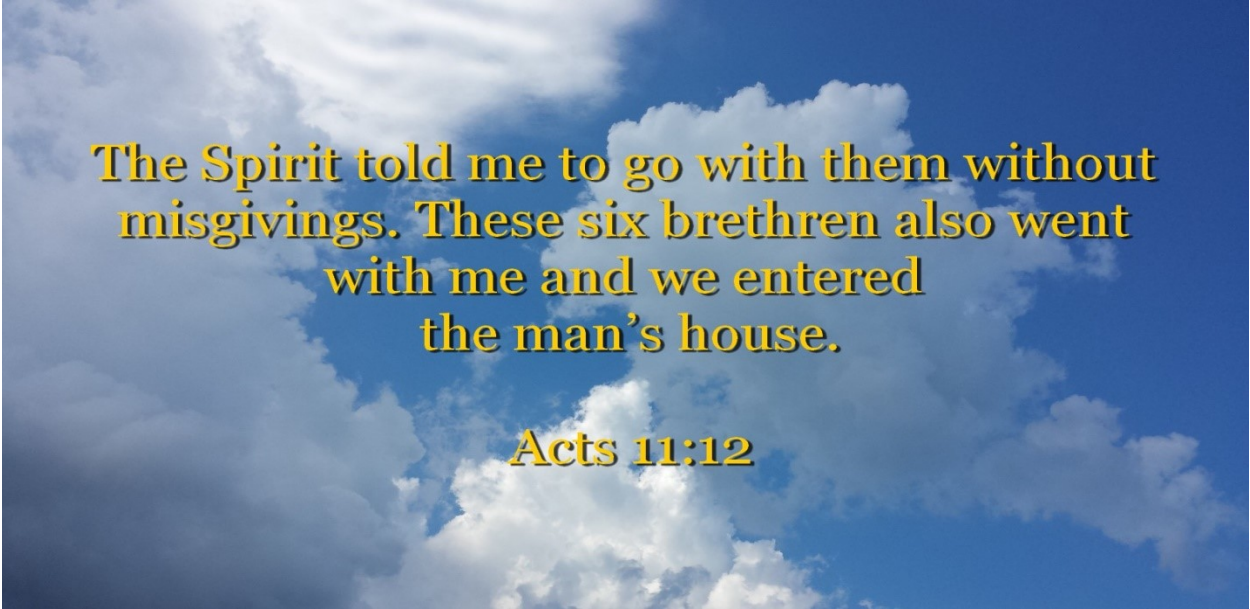
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for his timing is always perfect and the things that happen in our lives do not occur by chance. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding how God links events in your life to display His glory?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 396

Without Misgivings Today



The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man's house.

Acts 11:12

Why did Peter go with the men from Caesarea? Peter went because the Holy Spirit told him to go without misgivings.

As Peter recounted what happened with the Gentiles when they received the Holy Spirit, Peter got into the details of what happened at the house of Simon the Tanner in Joppa. Peter had already described the vision he had and what he saw in that vision.

Peter then began to talk about the journey to Caesarea. When the three men from Caesarea arrived, the Holy Spirit told Peter at that time to go with the men to Caesarea. The Holy Spirit also told Peter to go without misgivings. Peter left Joppa with six of his brethren. They would be key eyewitnesses of what happened with the Gentiles in Caesarea.

When the party of men arrived in Caesarea, they entered the house of Cornelius the centurion. The Holy Spirit had made a point of sending Peter to Cornelius in answer to the vision of Cornelius. Several days earlier an angel of the Lord appeared to Cornelius in Caesarea and instructed him to send the men to Joppa to pick up Peter and bring him back to Caesarea.

God was bringing the Gentiles and Peter together with eyewitnesses. Cornelius was looking forward to hearing from Peter because the Holy Spirit had told Cornelius that Peter would have a special message for them.

Entered

1. **Spirit**. How did the Holy Spirit direct Peter? The Holy Spirit directed Peter to go with the men from Caesarea.

2. **Go**. The Holy Spirit directed Peter from place to place and told him it was time to go to Caesarea.

3. **Misgivings**. Although Peter had never met these men before, the Holy Spirit told him to go with them without misgivings.

4. **Six**. Six men from Joppa accompanied Peter to Caesarea.

5. **Went**. As a group they went to the house of Cornelius the centurion in Caesarea.

6. **Entered**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter and the group of men with him entered the house of Cornelius at the direction of the Holy Spirit.

7. **House**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit had prepared Cornelius and his household and his friends to receive the message Peter was commanded by God to preach to them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by following the Lord's orders without misgivings.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by being ready to go to the next place God wants us to be.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining other believers on a mission trip under God's direction.**

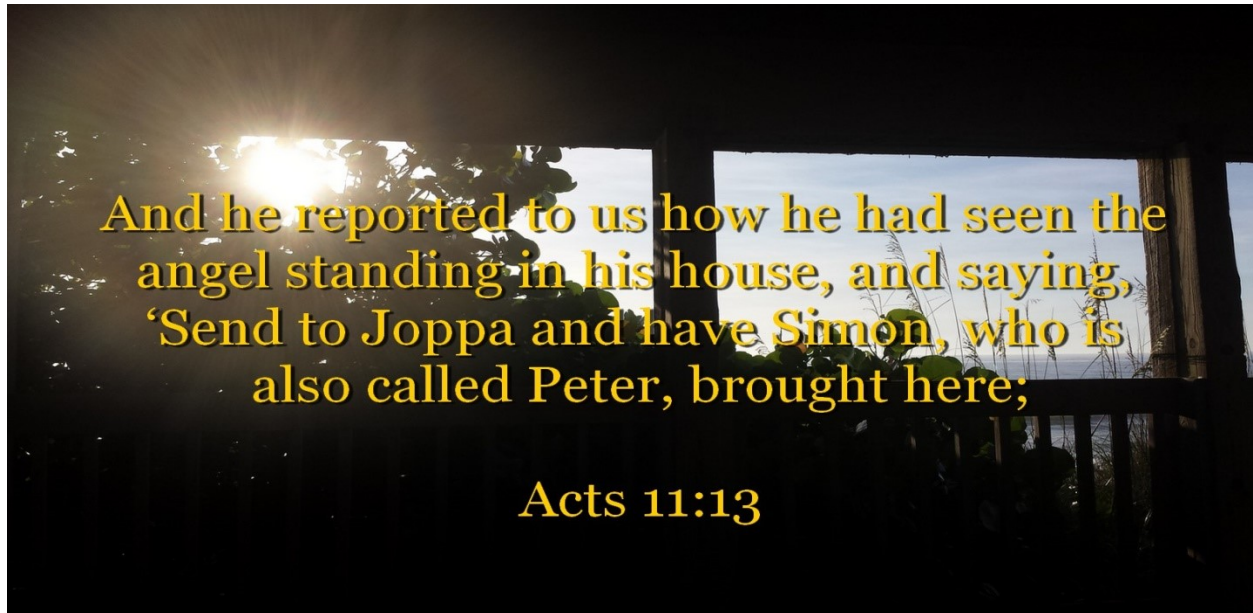
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by going where God sends you without misgivings. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going with other believers to the place where God sends you without misgivings?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 397

Reported Today



What did Cornelius tell Peter when they met? Cornelius reported to Peter and the men with him how he had seen the angel standing in his house.

Peter continued a very detailed account of what happened in Caesarea where the Gentiles were. Peter now described what he learned from Cornelius when he met him in Caesarea. Cornelius greeted Peter and the men with him and began his report to them.

Cornelius said that the angel of God told him to send men to Joppa. The angel was very precise in telling Cornelius where to find Peter in Joppa. This happened several days before Peter even knew that he was going to Caesarea. Peter had already moved from Jerusalem to Samaria back to Jerusalem and then over to Lydda and then to Joppa. Each time the Holy Spirit had moved him to the right place at the right time. Now the Holy Spirit was directing him to Caesarea, but he did not yet know why.

Hearing the story of Cornelius and the angel started to put all the pieces together for Peter. At Joppa Peter had seen the vision of the sheet and in Caesarea Cornelius heard the angel tell him to go get Peter. Now the two

would come together and things were going to become apparent to Peter and Cornelius.

Angel

1. **He**. What did Peter know about the vision of Cornelius? When Peter arrived in Caesarea, Cornelius reported to Peter the vision about the angel of God.

2. **Reported**. Cornelius reported to Peter what the angel had told him in a vision about going to get Peter.

3. **Seen**. Cornelius was quite specific in what he had seen in the vision.

4. **Angel**. The angel of God had told Cornelius to go to Joppa and pick up Peter.

5. **Send**. The angel specifically directed Cornelius to Joppa where he would find Peter.

6. **Joppa**. Living holy in the family of God means that Cornelius obeyed the angel and sent the men to Joppa, so that he could bring Peter to Caesarea and proclaim the words of salvation to the household and friends of Cornelius.

7. **Peter**. We rejoice today because Cornelius sent for Peter in Joppa and Peter came to Cornelius in Caesarea, all according to the predetermined plan of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding the plans of God often involve groups of people getting together and meeting.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by obeying the directions that God gives us so that the right people meet at the right time in the right place.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by ministering together and supporting one another in ministering.**

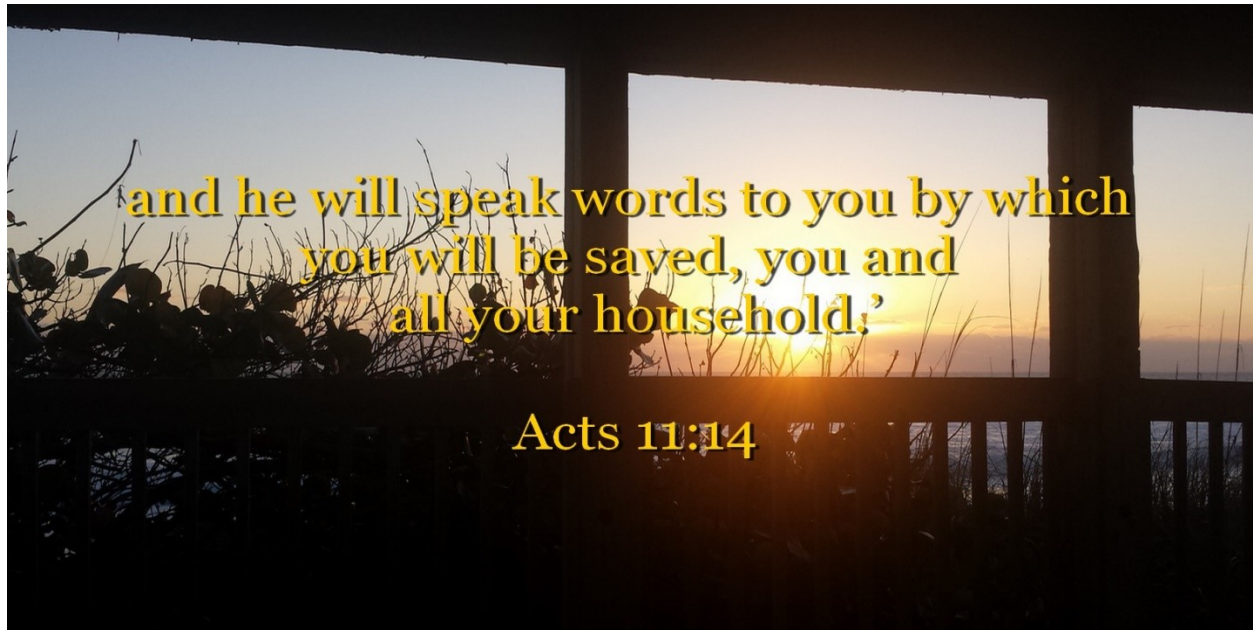
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by ministering with other believers and supporting one another. Will you live holy in the family of God today by joining others in pursuing the ministries God has laid before the group?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 398

Speak Today



What words did Peter bring to Caesarea? He brought the words of salvation.

Peter proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to Cornelius and his household. Based upon what Peter said, those people were already familiar with the facts of what happened with Jesus. Knowing the facts about Jesus is not the same as receiving the free gift of eternal life by believing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter now made it plain that Cornelius received the message from the angel that Peter would bring the message of salvation to Cornelius and his whole house. Therefore, Cornelius gathered all of his household and his relatives and his friends to hear the message of salvation proclaimed by Peter.

God had showed Peter in his vision that he should call no one unclean or unholy whom God has cleansed. Peter understood that truth in principle, but now he would see it by experience. Peter proclaimed the Gospel of the

Lord Jesus Christ to Cornelius and his household and all the people gathered there so that they would be saved, just as the angel disclosed.

Household

1. **He**. What did the angel of God tell Cornelius about the words of Peter? The Holy Spirit told Cornelius about the words of salvation which Peter would speak to them.

2. **Speak**. God commissioned Peter to speak words of salvation to Cornelius in Caesarea.

3. **Words**. Just like Jesus had the words of life, so also He gave that ministry of proclaiming the words of life to the apostles.

4. **Which**. The apostles proclaimed the words which saved people by drawing them to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

5. **Saved**. The angel told Cornelius that Peter would proclaim the words of eternal life.

6. **You**. Living holy in the family of God means that God wants you to be saved by hearing and believing the words of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Household**. We rejoice today because Cornelius and his household and his friends all came to hear Peter proclaim the words of salvation to them, just as the angel had proclaimed.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the words of life which only Jesus has.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the angel speaking to Cornelius about the words of salvation to be brought by Peter.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that someone spoke the words of salvation to us and we believed them.**

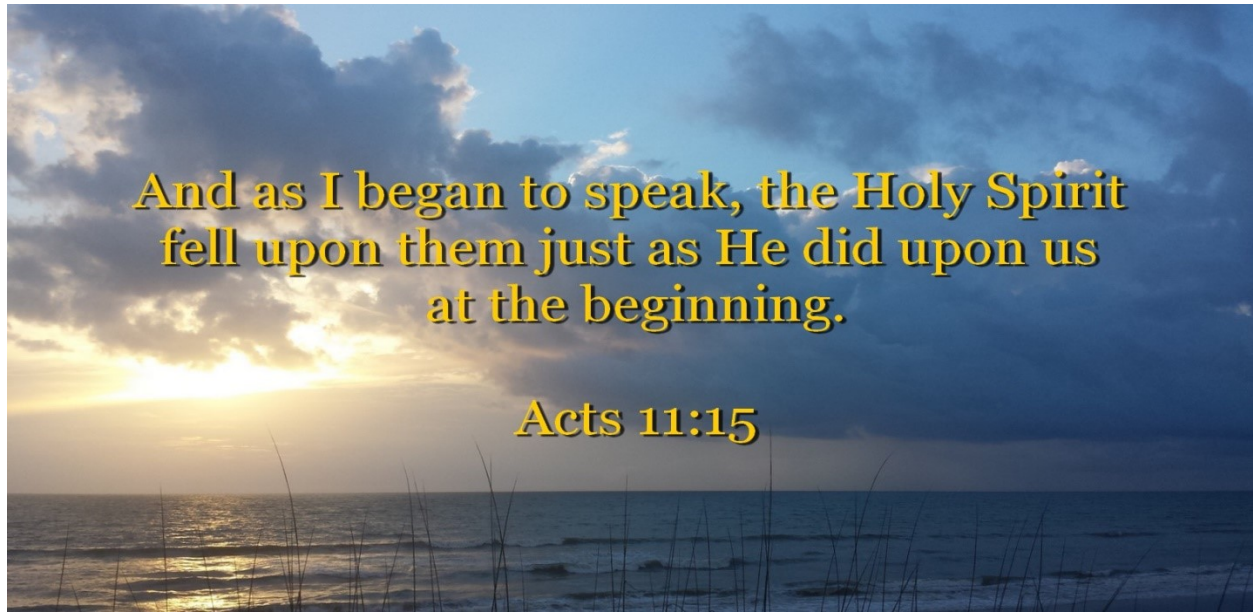
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by encouraging people to proclaim the words of salvation so that people may be saved. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the words of salvation and supporting others while they make the same proclamation of salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 399

Holy Spirit Today



As Peter began to speak, what happened? The Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He had fallen upon the apostles in Jerusalem at Pentecost.

Some people refer to this event as the Caesarean Pentecost. Just as the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles at Pentecost in Jerusalem, so also the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles in Caesarea. The Holy Spirit provided undeniable proof that the Gentiles were saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel. The Gentiles gathered at the home of Cornelius spoke in tongues after they had been saved and then they were baptized.

The Gentiles at Caesarea were truly converted to Jesus Christ. The question arose about what that meant. Because Peter had seen the sheet vision, he knew that God had cleansed the Gentiles and he should call no man unholy or unclean whom God had cleansed.

Peter had to bear that message to the circumcised Jews. They were clinging to the Law of Moses, but the Law of Moses passed away with the arrival of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth. The fullness of time had come so that Jesus was born of a virgin and born under the Law. Jesus, however,

fulfilled the Law so that a reminder of their sins was no longer necessary year-by-year. The blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection achieved what the blood of bulls and goats could never accomplish. Jesus brought the end of the Law and the beginning of the church based upon salvation in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Beginning

1. **Began**. What did the Holy Spirit do while Peter was speaking? The Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his household and the people with him.

2. **Speak**. Peter had begun to speak the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his household and the people he had gathered together.

4. **Fell**. The Holy Spirit fell upon them and gave proof of their salvation.

5. **Just**. The Holy Spirit fell upon the people at Caesarea just like He fell upon the apostles at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

6. **Us**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter recognized that what the Holy Spirit did at Caesarea was identical to what the Holy Spirit did in Jerusalem at Pentecost.

7. **Beginning**. We rejoice today because Peter understood that God had cleansed the Gentiles and the Holy Spirit fell upon them just like He had fallen upon the apostles in the beginning in Jerusalem at Pentecost.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Holy Spirit falling upon the people at Caesarea.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the Holy Spirit falls upon both Jews and Gentiles at salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that the Holy Spirit falls upon us at the moment of salvation and Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit.**

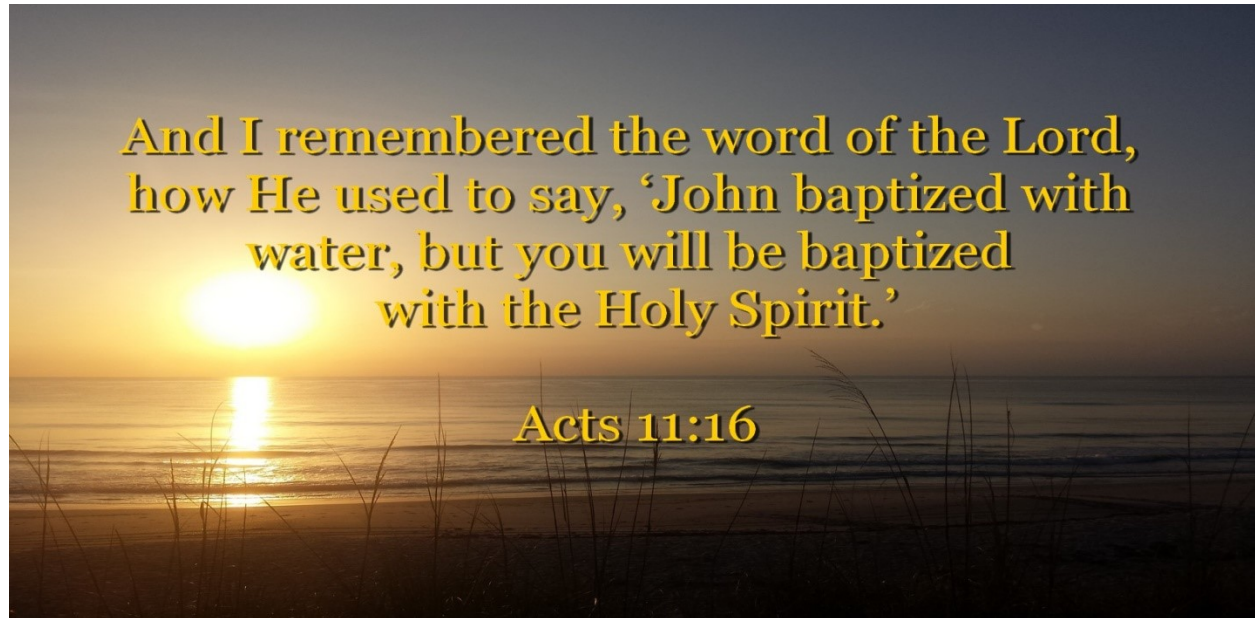
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the Holy Spirit falling upon us at the moment of salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that Jesus baptized you with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 400

John Today



What did Peter remember about John the Baptist? Peter remembered the word of the Lord which said that John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Peter, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, remembered the words of Jesus. After His resurrection, Jesus told the disciples that they should remain in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit had come upon them. John the Baptist had said that he baptized people with water, but One coming after him would baptize them with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Himself had prophesied that He would baptize believers with the Holy Spirit. When Jesus said that, He had not yet ascended to heaven. He told His apostles to stay in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them and then they would be His witnesses starting in Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and to the whole earth. They were uniquely qualified to be witnesses of the resurrection of Christ because they had been with Jesus and with one another since the baptism of John. Because Judas Iscariot had gone his own way and died, God chose Matthias to fill his place and his ministry. The

twelve apostles became the foundation stones of the new church, with Jesus Christ as the Head of the corner.

Holy Spirit

1. **I**. What did Peter remember about John the Baptist? Peter recalled the Lord had said that John baptized with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

2. **Remembered**. Peter remembered those words from the Lord and then understood at Caesarea what they meant for both Jews and Gentiles.

3. **Word**. Jesus spoke the words of salvation and also promised the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

4. **Lord**. The Lord Jesus prophesied that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in the Name of Jesus.

5. **John**. John baptized with water, but John also prophesied that Jesus would come and baptize people with the Holy Spirit.

6. **Jesus**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the words of the Lord Jesus too and the fulfillment of His prophecy that He would baptize all of us with the Holy Spirit.

7. **Holy Spirit**. We rejoice today because Jesus baptized every believer with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus baptizes every believer with the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Peter and the believers at Caesarea being filled and baptized with the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus for baptizing us with the Holy Spirit.**

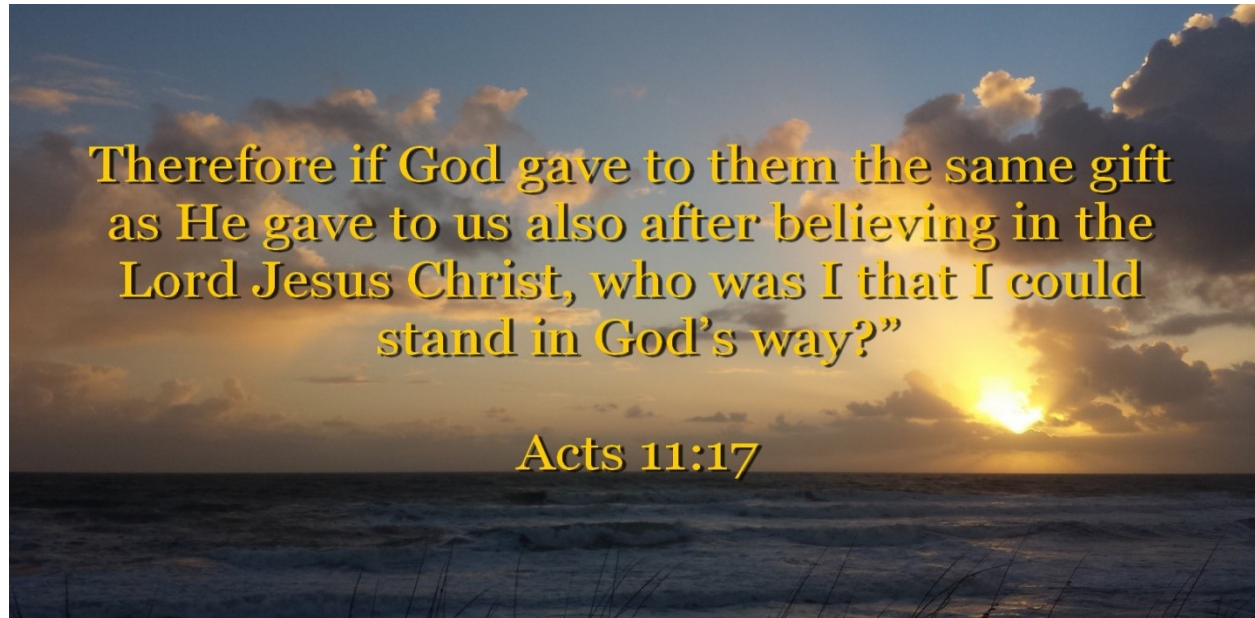
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for Jesus baptizing us into His body, the church, with the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by enjoying the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life Who unites us to Jesus and His body, the church?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 401

Same Gift Today



Why did Peter believe that he was not standing in God's way? Peter concluded he was not standing in God's way because the Gentiles received the gift of the Holy Spirit just like the Jews did at Pentecost.

Peter used persuasive arguments with the circumcised Jews opposing him for associating with the Gentiles at Caesarea. Peter had already showed that the Holy Spirit led him to go to Caesarea. Likewise, an angel from God appeared to Cornelius directing Cornelius to bring Peter to Caesarea. Furthermore, the coordination and timing between the events of Caesarea and the events of Joppa were divine.

Peter also received a vision about God cleansing people. God lowered a sheet to Peter in his vision at Joppa. The sheet was filled with unclean animals. God directed Philip to eat but he declined forcefully and repeatedly. Having repeated the process three times, the sheet was then taken back up into heaven. Peter came to understand that God had cleansed the Gentiles and that no one should be partial to anyone because God is not partial to anyone when it comes to salvation.

After Believing

1. **Therefore**. Why did Peter not want to stand in God's way? Peter had seen the Gentiles at Caesarea receive the gift of God after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and so concluded that he should not stand in the way of God.

2. **God**. Peter understood that God had given the Gentiles at Caesarea the same gift of the Holy Spirit that the apostles had received in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

3. **Gave**. Peter described the Holy Spirit coming into their lives as a gift from God, and indeed the Holy Spirit was a Gift.

4. **Gift**. Jesus had prophesied that the Father would send the Holy Spirit after the ascension of Jesus. The Father gave the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem.

5. **Believing**. After believing in Jesus, the Gentiles in Caesarea received the Holy Spirit as a Gift from God.

6. **Who**. Living holy in the family of God means that God gives the Gift of the Holy Spirit to people at the moment of salvation.

7. **I**. We rejoice today because Jesus saves people from their sins, whether Jews or Gentiles, and shows no partiality when it comes to salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation every day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He is not partial to any regarding salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by fellowshiping with Jews and Gentiles in the one and only church.**

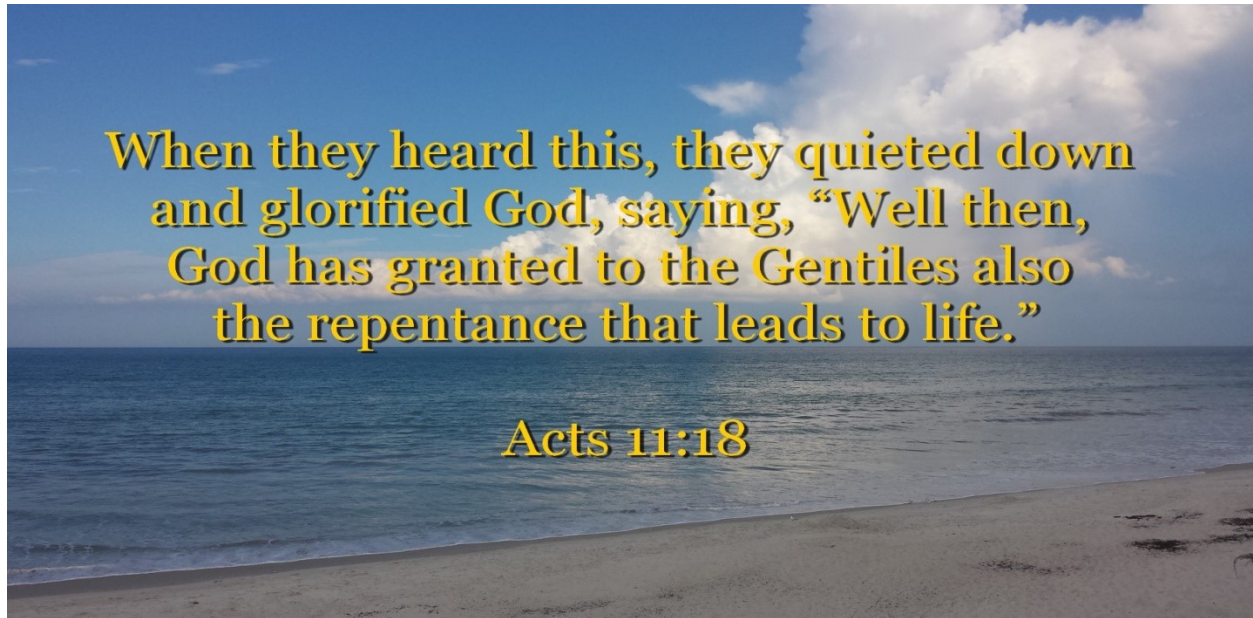
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the Gift of the Holy Spirit He has bestowed upon all believers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by enjoying the Gift of God, the Holy Spirit?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 402

Glorified God Today



Why did the circumcised Jews in Jerusalem quiet down? They quieted down and glorified God because they recognized that God granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.

Peter's case was very persuasive. He explained in orderly detail how he had received a vision that God cleansed everyone by faith without partiality as to Jew or Gentile. Then he showed how God had led Cornelius to bring him from Joppa to Caesarea. Then Peter showed how the Holy Spirit had directed him to join the men without misgivings and go to Caesarea. Having arrived at Caesarea with the men, Peter began proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. As he began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles gathered at Caesarea just like the Holy Spirit fell upon the Jews in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

When the circumcised Jews in Jerusalem heard the account of Peter, then they dropped their opposition and began glorifying God. God had used Peter to welcome the Gentiles into the church. Now God used Peter to help the circumcised believers accept the Gentiles into the body of Christ. Peter

obeyed God and applied the revelation he received from God to help the church function properly with this diversity of Jews and Gentiles.

Repentance

1. **When**. Why did the Jews quiet down? They quieted down when Peter related to them how the Gentiles received the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. **Heard**. God used Peter to communicate the truth of what happened at Caesarea with the Gentiles coming to Christ and joining the church.

3. **Quieted**. The truth from God about the Gentiles quieted down the believers from the circumcision in Jerusalem.

4. **Glorified**. So often when people hear the truth of God, they respond by glorifying God for His great love.

5. **Granted**. The circumcised believers in Jerusalem understood that God granted to the Gentiles repentance leading to life.

6. **Gentiles**. Living holy in the family of God means that we all recognize that the repentance leading to life is a gift of God.

7. **Repentance**. We rejoice today because we have received the gift of God by turning to God through hearing and believing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the repentance leading to life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God that He has given to both Jews and Gentiles the gift of repentance leading to life.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that the church consists of both Jews and Gentiles who received the gift of repentance leading to life. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the gift of God in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

3

Church Planting In Antioch Today

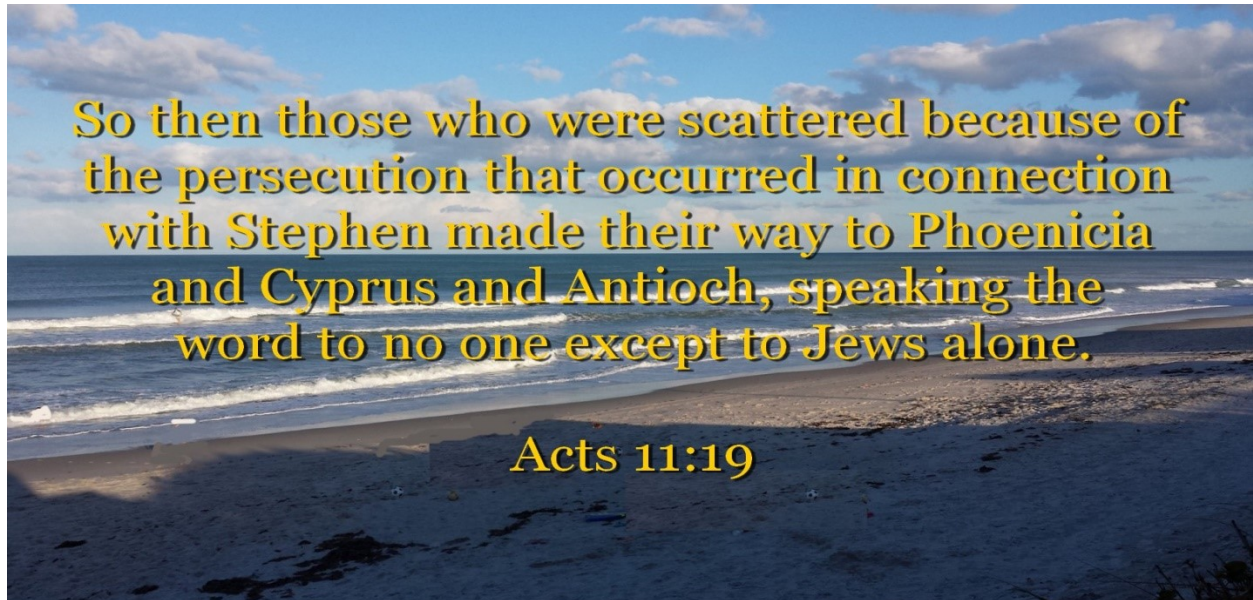
As the saints scattered because of the persecution occurring in connection with Stephen, they went to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word of Christ to only the Jews. Some men in Antioch began speaking to the Greeks, preaching the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them and many people believed in the Lord Jesus for salvation. The news reached the church in Jerusalem and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. Barnabas witnessed the grace of God at work in Antioch and considerable numbers were brought to the Lord. He left then for Tarsus to look for Saul. Having found Saul, he brought him to Antioch and for an entire year they taught considerable numbers at Antioch. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

About that time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus indicated there would be a great famine all over the world. Then the church took up a collection and sent Paul and Barnabas to deliver it.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 403

Scattered Today



What happened to the believers who scattered because of persecution following the death of Stephen? They made their way to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch.

Stephen worked miracles and was a powerful evangelist for God. The Jews stoned Stephen to death because of his testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ. Stephen delivered a long message recounting the history of Israel to the crowd standing before him. He showed them that they acted just like their fathers who killed the prophets. In like manner they had put Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, to death. Stephen explained that they were guilty of putting God to death. The crowd erupted in violence and stoned Stephen to death. The witnesses laid their robes the feet of a young man named Saul.

With the death of Stephen, the persecution of the believers in Judea gained great force and Saul of Tarsus became a leader of that persecution and went house to house arresting people, both men and women and imprisoned them for their faith in Christ. Saul even tried to expand his work to Damascus, but the Lord Jesus Christ interdicted his efforts by meeting him on the Damascus Road. Saul was converted and blinded. Several days later

he received his sight and began his ministry in Damascus. People fled from Judea because of that persecution, but the apostles remained in Jerusalem. The people who left during that persecution went to Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch. They did not speak the word to anyone except the Jews alone.

Speaking

1. **Scattered**. Where did the believers scattered through persecution go? They went to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch.

2. **Persecution**. The persecution arising after the death of Stephen sent believers in Judea scattering across the Mediterranean world.

3. **Stephen**. Stephen gave his life in Jerusalem because of his faithful testimony to the murderous ways of the religious Council in Jerusalem and his invitation to them to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

4. **Speaking**. When the believers scattered to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, they were only proclaiming the word to Jews.

5. **Word**. The word they proclaimed was the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Jews**. Living holy in the family of God means that the believers scattered in this persecution following Stephen's martyrdom began by preaching only to the Jews.

7. **Alone**. We rejoice today because some believers began preaching to the Greeks also, and not just to the Jews alone.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the persecution following the death of Stephen and how people scattered to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that the persecution spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God as people saved by the Lord Jesus and we are people drawn from all over the world.**

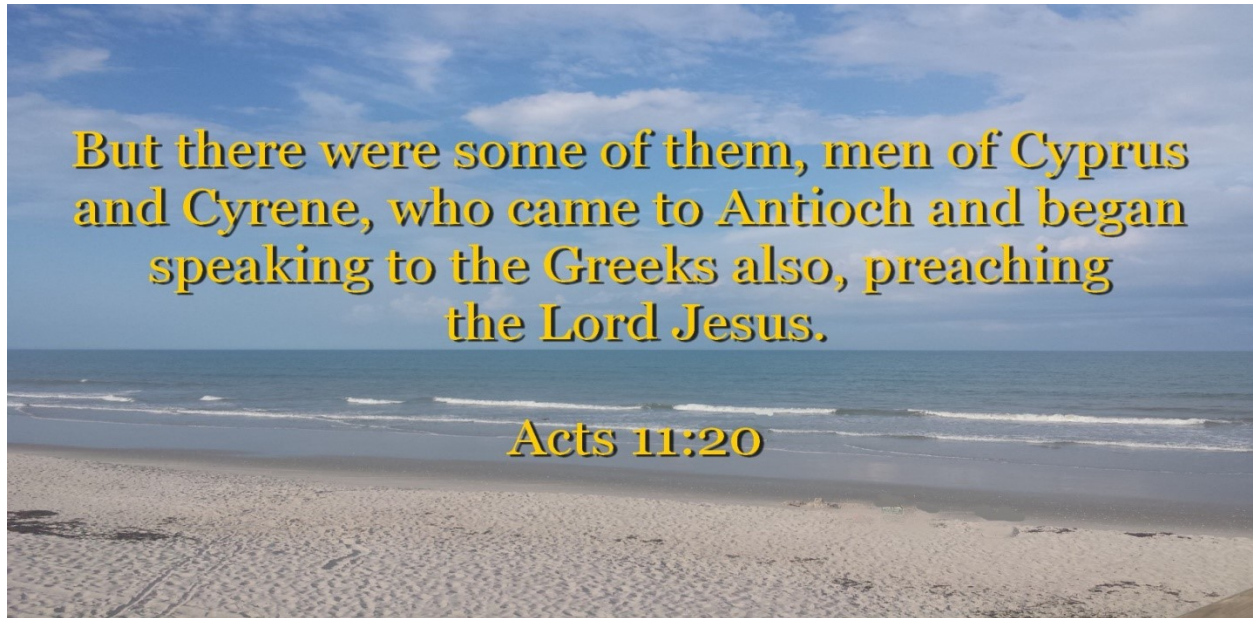
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation because some believers preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to people who are not Jews. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the way He spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to Gentiles also?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 404

Speaking Today



What did the men of Cyprus and Cyrene do? They came to Antioch and began preaching the Lord Jesus to both the Jews and the Greeks.

Persecution spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. When people left an area of persecution, the believers took the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with them in their hearts and on their lips. The history of the church includes many different persecutions in many different places. The expansion of the church often resulted from people being displaced by persecution and forced to flee to new areas.

Cyrene lies near the Mediterranean Sea in the country known today as Libya. Simon of Cyrene had carried the cross of Jesus. Some men from Cyrene at Pentecost heard the apostles speaking in their own language. Some Cyrenian Jews disputed with Stephen. Later, we will meet Lucius of Cyrene who received a message from the Holy Spirit concerning Paul and Barnabas.

Peter witnessed God open the doors of the church to the Gentiles at Caesarea and confirmed their salvation by the Holy Spirit falling upon them so that they spoke in tongues. Now we learn that men from Cyrene and

Cyprus spread the gospel to the Greeks. The age of the Gentiles had arrived and believers were reaching out to evangelize them. What started with a move based on persecution flowered into many Gentiles receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and forming local assemblies all around the Mediterranean world and beyond.

Greeks

1. **But**. Who started speaking to the Greeks? Men from Cyprus and Cyrene started speaking to the Greeks also.
2. **Cyprus**. Barnabas was from Cyprus, but other believers from Cyprus began spreading the gospel to the Greeks.
3. **Cyrene**. Believers from Cyrene had also started spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in Antioch to the Greeks.
4. **Speaking**. The believers were proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ when they fled persecution.
5. **Also**. The believers were not only spreading the Gospel to the Jews, but they also began preaching to the Greeks.
6. **Preaching**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit led people to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to Greeks in addition to Jews.
7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because God does not respect persons when it comes to salvation because He loves everyone.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Lord Jesus to both Jews and Greeks.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God does not show partiality when it comes to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Jews and Greeks both join the same church by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.**

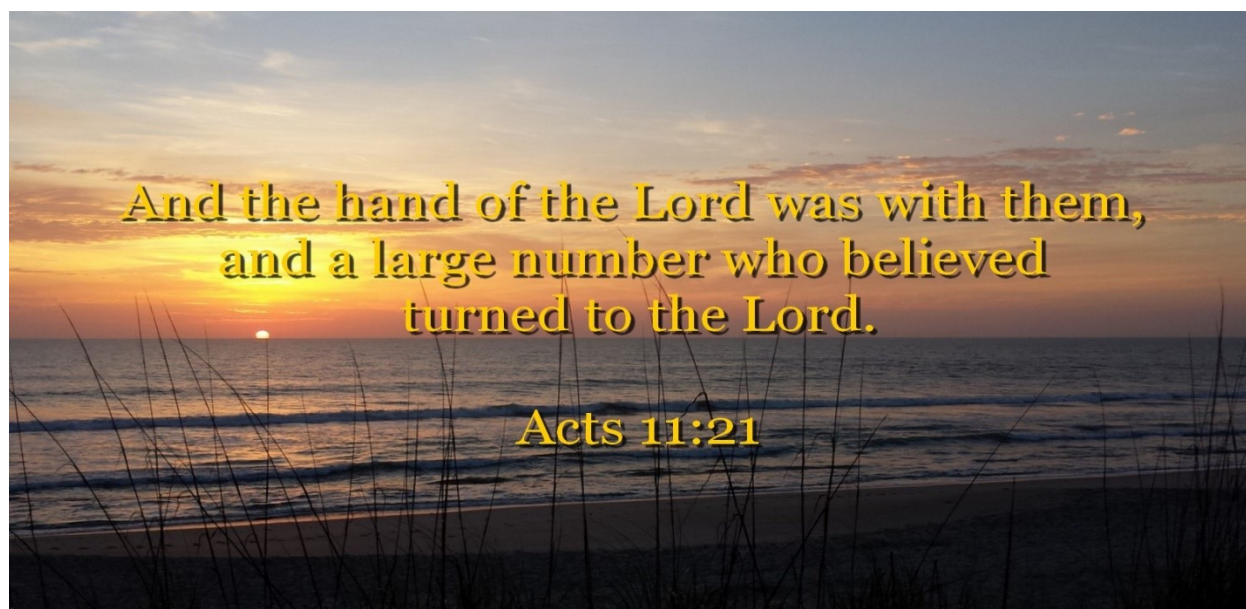
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He loves both Jews and Greeks. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God as Greeks and Jews with the same heavenly Father, the same Lord Jesus Christ, and the same Holy Spirit uniting us in one faith, one baptism, and one church?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 405

Hand of the Lord Today



How did the preaching to the Greeks go? A large number of Greeks believed and turned to the Lord.

Antioch was quickly becoming a new center for Christianity. The Holy Spirit moved men from Cyprus and Cyrene to proclaim the gospel to the Greeks and Jews at Antioch.

As a result of their proclaiming of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, many Greeks in Antioch believed and turned to the Lord. Notice that the text tells us that not only did they believe, but they also turned to the Lord. Peter had witnessed the same thing in Joppa, where he proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and many people there turned to the Lord.

While the apostles labored primarily in Jerusalem, God used men from Cyprus and Cyrene to begin the proclamation of the gospel in Antioch. This church was not founded by the apostles, but other men driven by the Holy Spirit to continue the proclamation of the Gospel to the Greeks. While men from Cyprus and Cyrene were present at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost when the apostles spoke in tongues, and heard them in their own native

languages, we know now that some men from Cyprus and Cyrene were converted to the Lord Jesus Christ and wanted other people to know about Jesus as Savior. The hand of the Lord was with them.

Turned

1. **Hand**. Why did many people believe? They believed because the hand of the Lord was with the believers in Antioch proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Lord**. The Lord blessed the believers sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Greeks.

3. **Them**. The hand of the Lord was with them as they proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to Greeks as well as to the Jews, following up on the pattern established at Caesarea that God welcome Gentiles into the church.

4. **Large**. Because the hand of the Lord was with them, a large number of Greeks believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

5. **Believed**. Like all the believers before them, the Greeks believed in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

6. **Turned**. Living holy in the family of God means that saving faith turned the Greeks to the Lord.

7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus Christ saves both Jews and Greeks, because He is not partial to any.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to save both Jews and Greeks.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He is no respecter of persons regarding salvation for Jews and Greeks.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by as the people of God who turned to the Lord because of His loving power.**

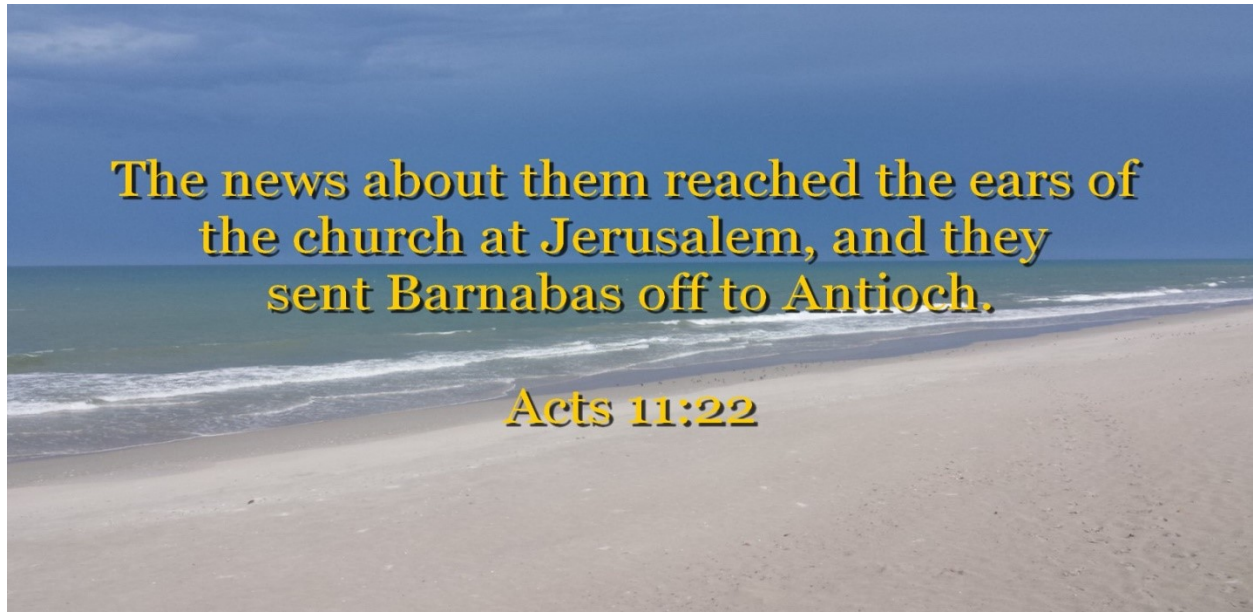
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that saving faith in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ produces only one family in one church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the unity in the body of Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 406

News Today



Why did Barnabas go to Antioch? Because the news about what was going on in Antioch reached Jerusalem.

Some people came to Antioch and began proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Greeks. Previously, the people fleeing persecution were only proclaiming the word to the Jews.

When men from Cyprus and Cyrene began proclaiming the gospel to the Greeks in Antioch, the hand of the Lord was with them and many Greeks turned to the Lord. Just as Peter saw in Caesarea, God welcomed the Gentiles into the church.

With the conversion of the Greeks in Antioch, many questions arose about what to do with so many Greeks who did not follow the Law of Moses. In fact, they were largely unfamiliar with the Old Testament.

The apostles spent most of their time in Jerusalem. Therefore, when the news reached Jerusalem about the great things that were happening in

Antioch, they wanted to gather first-hand information about the events there. So, they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

Sent

1. **News**. What happened when the news about Antioch reached Jerusalem? The church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to the church in Antioch.

2. **Reached**. Without internet, email or telephone, the news about the conversion of many people in Antioch, including Greeks, reached the church in Jerusalem.

3. **Ears**. The ears of the people in Jerusalem heard the news about Antioch and wanted to learn more.

4. **Jerusalem**. In Jerusalem the church wanted to know more about the conversions going on in Antioch, particularly about the Greeks hearing and believing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Sent**. The church in Jerusalem then sent Barnabas to the church at Antioch.

6. **Barnabas**. Living holy in the family of God means that faithful servants of God, using the Spiritual Gift of Helps, promote the ministry of other believers using their spiritual gifts. Barnabas used his gifts to promote the ministry of Saul of Tarsus and bring blessings to the saints in Antioch.

7. **Antioch**. We rejoice today because the Jerusalem church cared about the saints at Antioch and sent Barnabas to them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Barnabas using the Spiritual Gift of Helps at Antioch.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding how the spiritual gifts work together to produce blessings for the family of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by caring enough about saints in other places to send ministers to help them out as God works among both groups.**

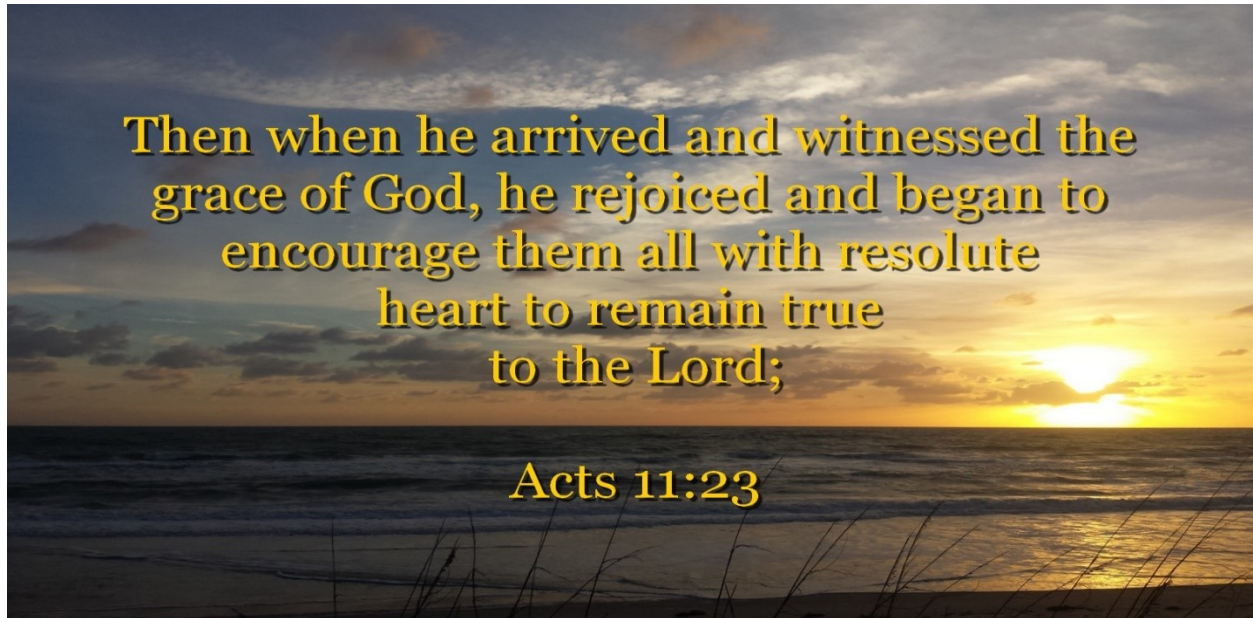
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by going where the church sends us to strengthen and encourage other believers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going where God sends you to strengthen and encourage other believers?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 407

Witnessed Today



What did Barnabas see in Antioch? When Barnabas arrived in Antioch, he witnessed the grace of God.

Men from Cyprus and Cyrene began the evangelization of the Greeks in Antioch. The local assembly there was then composed of both Jews and Greeks. For the Jews, they now had to associate with Gentiles.

Barnabas rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord. Barnabas first appeared in Acts as the Levite of Cyprian birth who sold the parcel of land and laid the proceeds at the feet of the apostles. His name in Aramaic means 'son of encouragement'. Barnabas was the kind of man the apostles could rely upon to assess what was going on in Antioch and bring a report back to them.

Barnabas also had another great quality. When Saul of Tarsus was converted and came to Jerusalem after escaping from Damascus, the people in Jerusalem were afraid of him and unwilling to associate with him. Barnabas took hold of him and introduced him to the apostles and others. Barnabas had a gift of bringing people together for ministry.

Encourage

1. **He**. What happened when Barnabas arrived in Antioch? Barnabas witnessed the grace of God in action.

2. **Arrived**. Barnabas arrived in Antioch because the news the events in Antioch came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem and they sent him to find out more.

3. **Witnessed**. Barnabas witnessed firsthand the grace of God at work in Antioch with the conversion of both Jews and Greeks.

4. **Grace**. Antioch marked the place where the grace of God poured out upon the Gentiles so that they formed one church with the Jews.

5. **God**. God had started the expansion of Christianity among the Greeks of the Roman Empire.

6. **Rejoiced**. Living holy in the family of God means that Barnabas rejoiced when he saw the grace of God at work in Antioch.

7. **Encourage**. We rejoice today because Barnabas began to encourage all the saints there with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing when we witness the grace of God at work among the saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by encouraging with a resolute heart the new converts to remain true to the Lord.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by strengthening the new Christians to walk with Christ and not lose heart and drift away.**

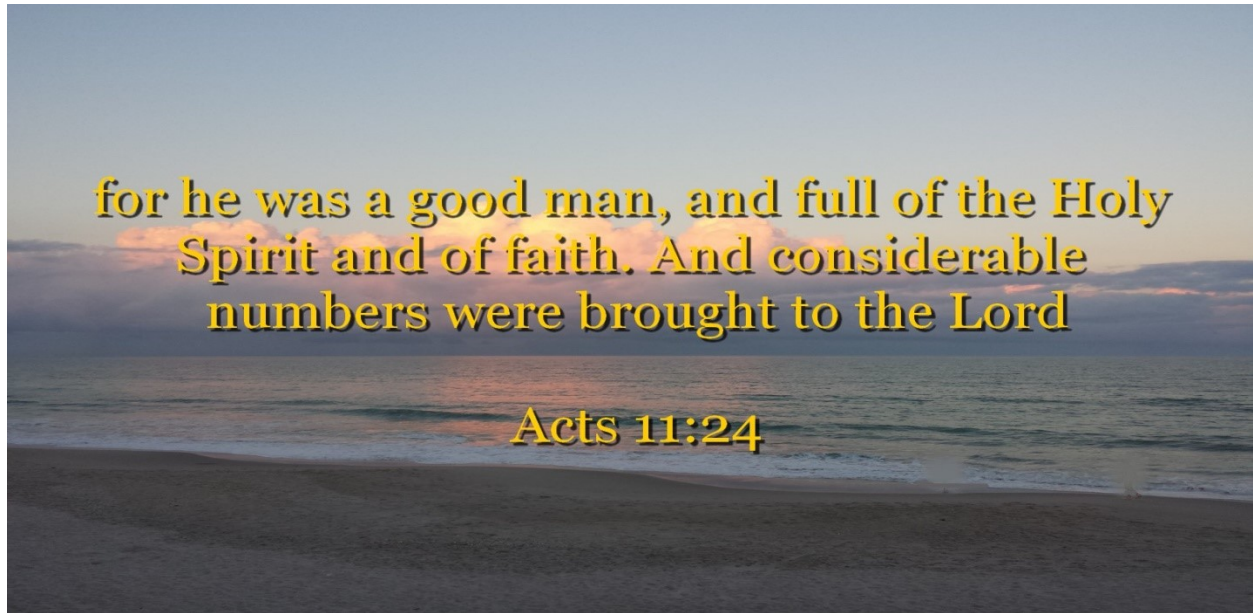
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by encouraging new converts to remain true to the Lord. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spending time encouraging young believers to remain true to the Lord?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 408

Full Today



What kind of reputation did Barnabas have? Barnabas had a reputation of being a good man and full of the Holy Spirit in the faith.

When Barnabas arrived in Antioch, he witnessed the grace of God in action. Many people were brought to the Lord through the ministry of people sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with the Greeks as well as the Jews. Previously, people were only sharing the word with the Jews.

As the persecution of the church intensified in Judea, people scattered across the Mediterranean world to escape that persecution. Some men from Cyprus and Cyrene went to Antioch and began proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Gentiles, particularly the Greeks.

The apostles sent Barnabas to Antioch. Upon arrival Barnabas witnessed the grace of God in action, and the many people turning to the Lord. Barnabas was known as a good man, full of the Holy Spirit in the faith. Barnabas came ready to minister in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Greeks. He had already heard about Peter and the conversion of the Gentiles in Caesarea.

Holy Spirit

1. **Good**. Why was Barnabas called a good man, when Jesus said that no one is good except God? Barnabas was called a good man because he was full of faith and the Holy Spirit. God made him good.

2. **Faith**. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

3. **Holy Spirit**. If the Holy Spirit does not dwell within you, then you are not of Christ and not saved, because Jesus baptizes all believers with the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation and God seals them with the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption.

4. **Considerable**. A crowd of people came to the Lord Jesus, much like the events at Pentecost when a large crowd heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and believed that day.

5. **Numbers**. The numbers who came to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior were large in Antioch.

6. **Brought**. Living holy in the family of God means that a crowd of people were added to the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus brings people from all walks of life and from all ethnic groups and all nations and all tongues and all tribes to Himself before He returns to earth in glory.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the large crowd of people who came to faith in Christ in Antioch.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God can save crowds of people at a time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing with the angels in heaven over one sinner who repents, and how much more over a crowd.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for crowds of people all over the world coming to Christ as Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for good men who proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to crowds of people?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 409

Tarsus Today



Why did Barnabas leave Antioch? He left to find Saul of Tarsus.

Barnabas always had this great quality of helping other people with their ministries. His spiritual gift involved helping other people use their spiritual gifts. Barnabas was truly the son of encouragement.

Saul of Tarsus was converted on the Damascus Road to following Jesus Christ as Savior. Immediately after conversion, Saul began preaching in the synagogues of Damascus. Using the Scriptures he presented convincing proof that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah of Israel. The Jews in Damascus rose up against him and sought to kill him, but the disciples helped him escape to Jerusalem.

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, the disciples there remembered him as the chief persecutor of the church and were afraid of him. Barnabas, however, took hold of Saul and introduced him to the apostles and other believers. Through the ministry of Barnabas, Saul of Tarsus became acquainted with the believers in Jerusalem. Before long, he had to leave Jerusalem and went to Tarsus. Therefore, Barnabas knew that Antioch would

benefit from the ministry of Saul of Tarsus and he would benefit from the ministry there.

Saul

1. **And**. What would did Barnabas do after ministering in Antioch? He left Antioch and went to Tarsus looking for Saul.

2. **He**. He was looking for Saul because that is precisely what a person with the Spiritual Gift of Helps does. He uses his gift to grab hold of another person and help them use their spiritual gifts in ministry.

3. **Left**. While crowds of people were coming to Christ in Antioch and things were going great there, Barnabas left.

4. **Tarsus**. Barnabas left to go to the hometown of Saul, Tarsus.

5. **Look**. Barnabas was looking for Saul because he wanted Saul to join him in Antioch where the ministry was thriving.

6. **For**. Living holy in the family of God means that we look for other people to join the ministry team when things are thriving spiritually at one place so that the believers may be blessed and the new member of the ministry team may gain more experience and enjoy the blessing of God.

7. **Saul**. We rejoice today because Barnabas left the great ministry at Antioch to find Saul of Tarsus and bring him to Antioch to share in the blessing of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the blessing of God in sharing that blessing with other believers on a ministry team.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by finding other believers to join ministry teams at crucial times.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining ministry teams and moving as God summons us to participate in His ministries.**

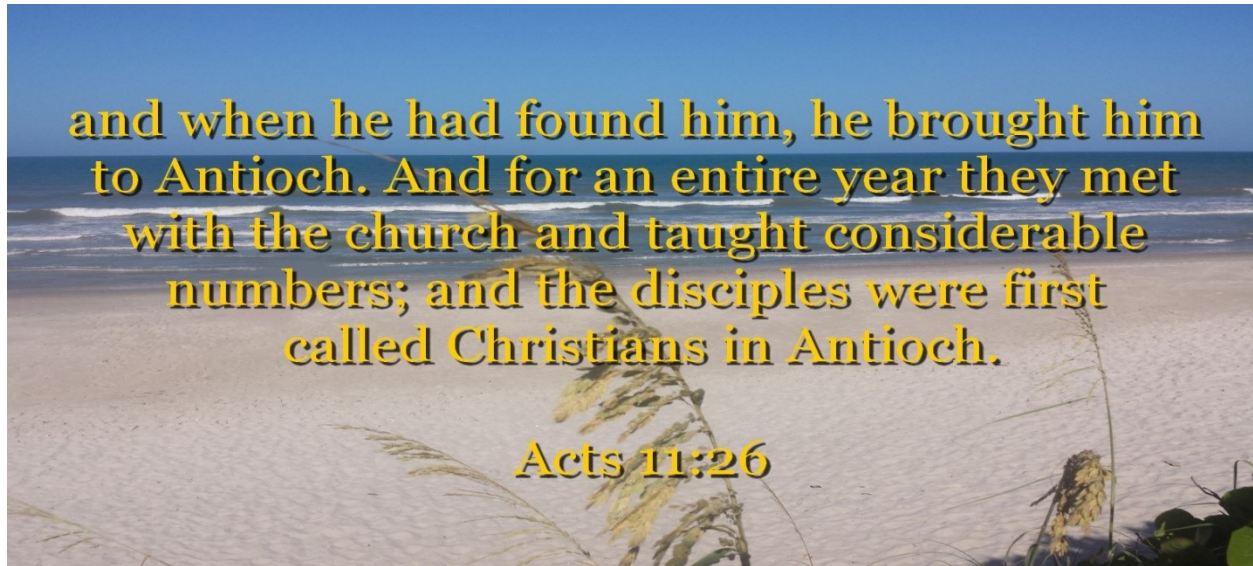
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by reaching out to other believers to join us on ministry teams and enjoy the blessing of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reaching out to other believers to join you on a ministry team?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 410

Antioch Today



What did Barnabas do with Saul? He brought Saul to Antioch.

When Saul arrived in Antioch, he ministered with Barnabas there for an entire year. They met with the church and taught considerable numbers there. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Saul and Barnabas made a great ministry team. Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus who sold property and donated it to the apostles in Jerusalem not long after the day of Pentecost. Barnabas had strong Jewish roots, just like Saul. Unlike Saul, Barnabas had no history recorded of tormenting the church. Together Saul and Barnabas taught people from the Scriptures about Jesus of Nazareth being the Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world.

While the Greeks came into the church in considerable numbers, Jesus would always be a Jewish Messiah, for salvation is of the Jews. Therefore, the new converts needed to become familiar with the Scriptures of the Old Testament as the New Testament was being written over time. Yet, they were not bound by the Old Testament Law, despite some people teaching that both Jews and Gentiles still needed to keep the Old Testament Law to go to heaven.

in addition to faith in Christ. Saul and Barnabas would face that controversy because they ministered to the Gentiles.

Considerable Numbers

1. **When**. What did Barnabas do when he found Saul in Tarsus? He brought him to Antioch.

2. **Found**. When someone finds you, and you know they were sent by the Lord, be ready to join them in ministry.

3. **Brought**. Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch to join the ministry team there where God was already bringing a crowd of people to Himself.

4. **Year**. Saul and Barnabas spent a year with the church at Antioch ministering to a large crowd of people.

5. **Met**. Saul and Barnabas met with many believers in Antioch. Barnabas blessed God by bringing Saul to join the fellowship at Antioch and use his spiritual gifts there.

6. **Disciples**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used Barnabas, Saul and others to make disciples at Antioch with the crowd of saints there.

7. **Christians**. We rejoice today because the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Antioch was the place where the disciples were first called Christians.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Antioch was the place that some believers began to proclaim the word to Greeks and not only to the Jews.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that all Christians compose only one church.**

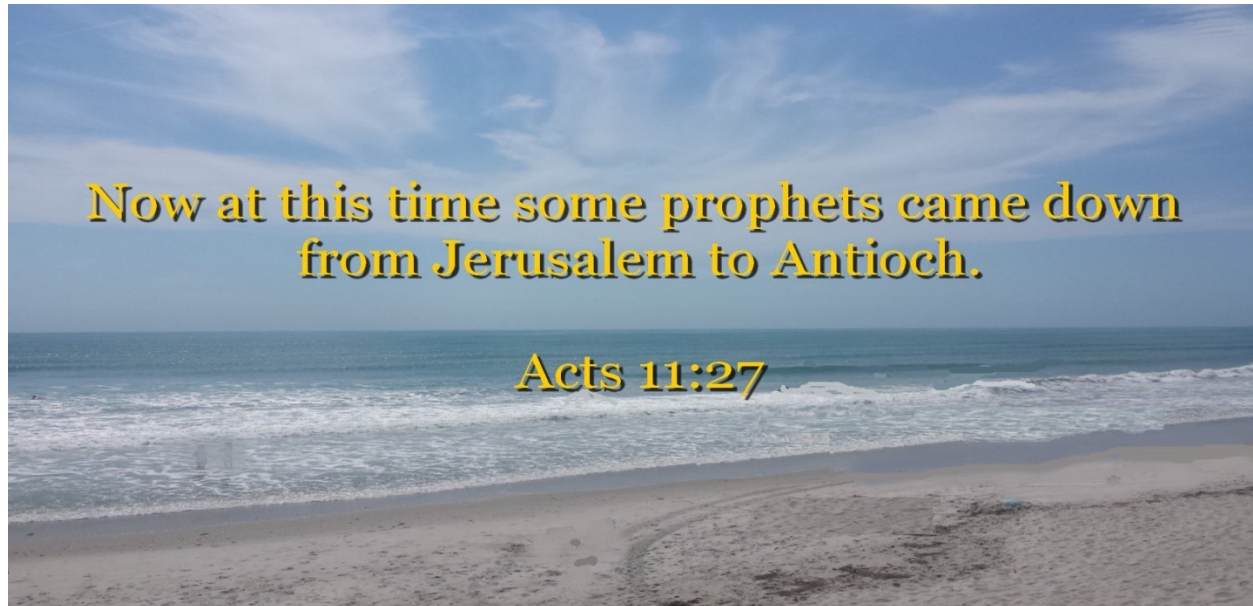
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by bringing other saints to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ in a particular place so that everyone may be blessed together as they minister together in the church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by ministering with others in the church where God has called you to join the ministry team there?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 411

Prophets Today



Who are the next people to come down from Jerusalem to Antioch? Some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

Some saints from Cyrene and Cyprus came to Antioch and started proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both the Jews and Greeks. Previously, saints did not spread the word with anybody but to Jews only. When the saints started spreading the gospel, many Greeks turned to the Lord.

When the news first reached Jerusalem that many Greeks had turned to the Lord, they sent Barnabas to investigate the matter. Barnabas encouraged the saints there for a while, and then left to find Saul of Tarsus and bring him to Antioch. They ministered together for an entire year with great results.

After that first year, the saints in Jerusalem sent prophets to Antioch. Prophets receive revelation from God and proclaim that revelation. God only provides truth in His revelations without error.

Antioch had a dynamic ministry team there. God had sent a great teacher and evangelist in Saul and a great teacher and encourager in Barnabas.

Antioch

1. **Now**. Why did prophets come to Antioch? Prophets in Jerusalem came to Antioch to provide revelations and encouragement to the saints there.

2. **Time**. The prophets came at just the right time.

3. **Prophets**. The prophets receive revelations from God and then make them known to the people of God and others.

4. **Came**. The prophets came down from Jerusalem by the leading of God.

5. **Down**. Coming down to Antioch in this case means traveling north into the modern area of Asia Minor. Great things were taking place with many of the Greeks turning to the Lord at Antioch.

6. **Jerusalem**. Living holy in the family of God means that the apostles stayed behind in Jerusalem while others fled persecution.

7. **Antioch**. We rejoice today because some believers went to Antioch and began sharing the gospel with both Jews and Gentiles. God richly blessed their ministry with many Greeks turning to the Lord Jesus for salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that prophets came to Antioch to bring revelations and encouragement to the new church there.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the prophets proclaimed the revelations they received from God directly.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His mercies in providing revelation in the Bible that help us know Him and His will.**

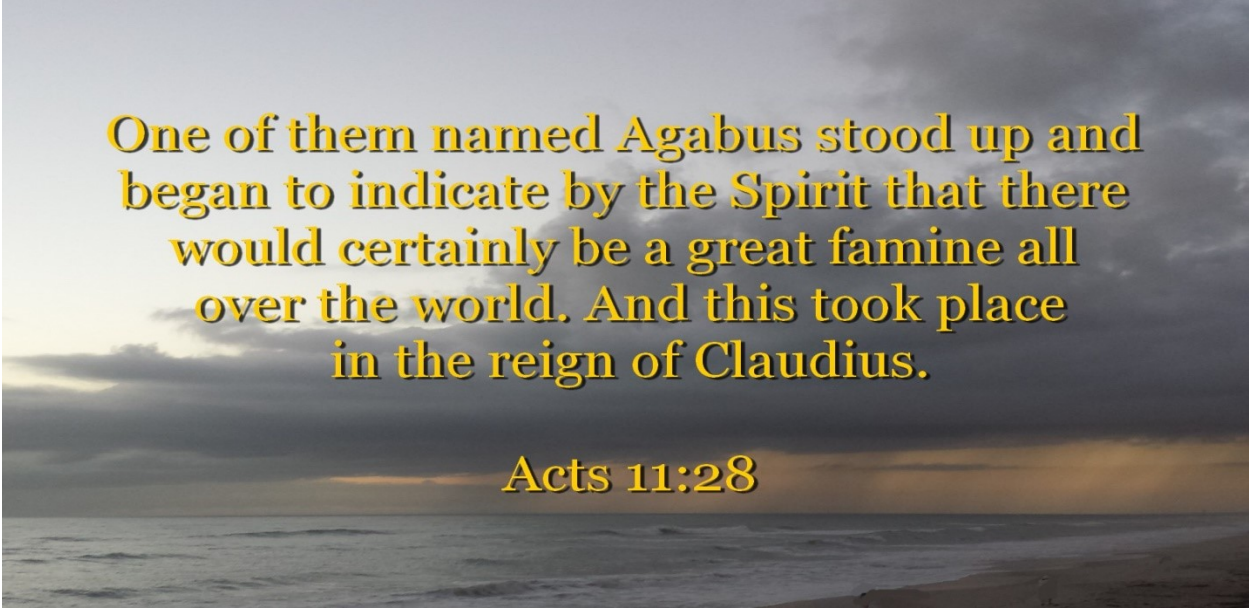
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God more for the revelations He provides to us through the prophets of the Bible. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the revelations He provided in the Bible that can strengthen our lives every day?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 412

Agabus Today



One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.

Acts 11:28

Who was Agabus? Agabus was a prophet who came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

After arriving in Antioch, Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine all over the world. In fact, that famine took place during the reign of Claudius, Emperor of the Roman Empire.

Luke included many historical facts in the Book of Acts. Those details, such as the reign of Claudius, provide checkpoints for archaeologists to confirm the Bible.

Agabus came to Antioch from Jerusalem because things were going so well in Antioch. The prophets received revelation from God and provided that to the congregation. God always speaks the truth through those revelations to the prophets. The Old Testament prophets spoke for God and conveyed truths that often help Israel avoid disaster. An entire section of the Old Testament was devoted to the works of prophets who received

revelations from God. Many of those revelations concerning the land and people of Israel have yet to be fulfilled.

Famine

1. **Agabus**. What revelation did Agabus receive? Agabus received a revelation about worldwide famine.

2. **Stood**. One of the prophets who came down from Jerusalem to Antioch was named Agabus. Having arrived at Antioch, Agabus stood up and delivered a prophecy.

3. **Indicate**. Agabus indicated through the Spirit that there would certainly be a great famine.

4. **Spirit**. The Holy Spirit often revealed things to the prophets of the Old and New Testaments. The Holy Spirit searches out the deep things of God and reveals them to us as God wills.

5. **Famine**. Agabus described the great famine coming over all the world.

6. **World**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sent Agabus to proclaim worldwide famine so that people would prepare themselves.

7. **Claudius**. We rejoice today because God provided great historical details in the Book of Acts, including that this famine would take place during the reign of Claudius, Emperor of the Roman Empire.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the revelations He provides to prepare us for the future.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by reading the prophecies that God provided in the Bible so that we will live today to be ready for tomorrow.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the prophecies that God shares with us in the Bible so that the future will not take us unaware.**

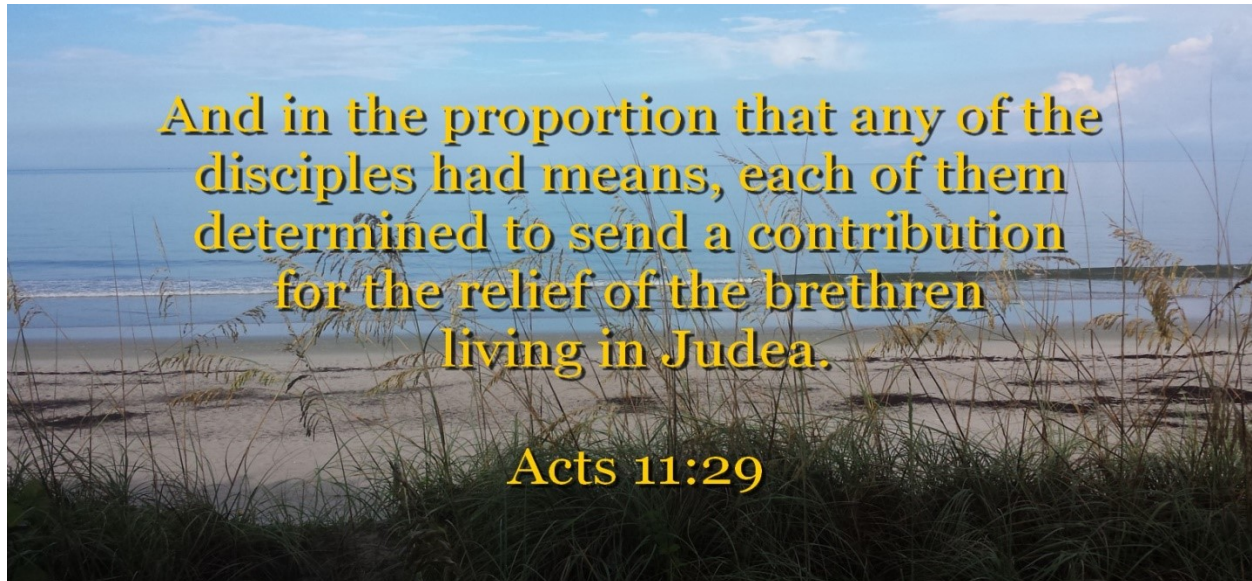
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by learning the prophecies of the Bible so that we may live today and be ready for the future. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking the time to learn the prophecies God provided in the Bible?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 413

Means Today



Why did God tell Agabus about the coming famine? God wanted the saints at Antioch to send a contribution to the brethren living in Judea.

God has divine reasons for providing new revelation to prophets. In this case, Agabus received a revelation from God about the coming famine which occurred during the reign of Claudius. The reason God made that revelation through Agabus was so that the brethren living in Antioch could provide famine relief money to the saints in Judea. Therefore, before the famine even hit, the saints could start sending money to prepare for the famine. You may recall Joseph in the Old Testament prepared the land of Egypt for famine by building large grain storehouses and filling them before the famine years hit.

Antioch was filled with both Jews and Greeks in the same local assembly. Together, according to their means, they would provide money for the saints in Judea to withstand the famine. God used prophecy through Agabus to prepare offerings for the people in Judea facing the coming famine. Prophecy often has a very practical point to it. God intended for the saints to be provided for during the famine by other saints. Other people

going through the famine in Judea would understand that the saints received a special blessing from God.

Contribution

1. **Proportion**. How did the disciples get ready for the famine? The disciples put aside money for the famine.

2. **Any**. Any disciple who had the ability to give money for the famine relief did so.

3. **Disciples**. The church should always look to the disciples to provide money and other resources to help other local assemblies in need.

4. **Means**. Some local assemblies may have disciples with greater means than others. To whom much is given much will be required.

5. **Determine**. The disciples determined in their own hearts, according to their means, how much to provide for famine relief.

6. **Send**. Living holy in the family of God means that the saints in Antioch gathered funds according to their means to provide relief to send to the saints in Judea.

7. **Brethren**. We rejoice today because the brethren in Antioch looked after the brothers in Judea, including Greeks looking out for Jews.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that each of us, according to our means, should determine to give something to help out other believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by giving today so that we will be a blessing to people tomorrow.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by listening to the prophecies and understanding we need to prepare for the future today.**

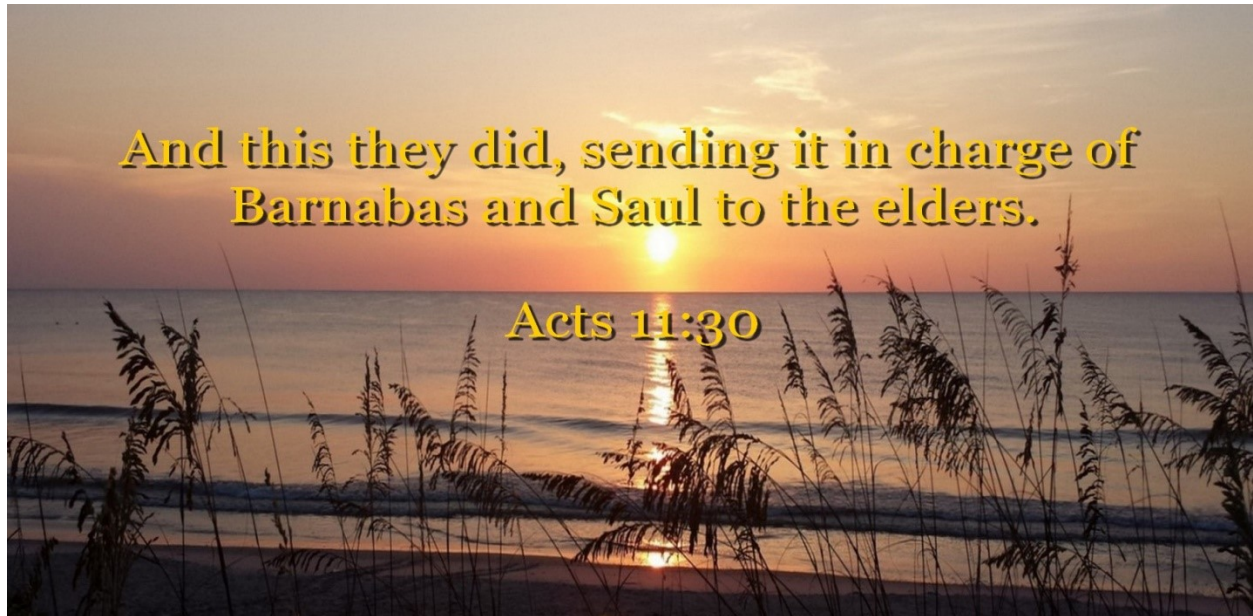
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding the prophecies today so that we may provide relief for saints in distress tomorrow. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sending relief, according to your individual means, to help saints in distress?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 414

Sending Today



What happened to the money collected in Antioch? Having collected the money in Antioch, the congregation there sent the money to Judea by Saul and Barnabas.

Barnabas arrived in Antioch before Saul, whom Barnabas then brought to Antioch to join the ministry team. Later some prophets arrived from Jerusalem, including Agabus who prophesied about the famine to come.

According to their means, the saints in Antioch raised money for the relief of the saints in Judea facing famine. The saints in Antioch had defined faithful man they could entrust the funds to deliver to Judea. In this case both Barnabas and Saul had been to Judea before and Barnabas was well acquainted with the apostles in Jerusalem. Saul also knew them from his brief time with them after he arrived from Damascus, newly saved.

Entrusting funds for specific relief projects will always be a big deal, even today. Gathering relief funds requires local saints to give money for use by saints elsewhere. Such funds should always be sent by faithful messengers and delivered to faithful leaders who will use the money wisely.

Elders

1. **Did**. How did the church in Antioch get the funds down to the people in Judea? The church in Antioch entrusted the money to faithful servants who delivered it to the elders in Judea.
2. **Sending**. The brethren in Antioch determined to send the funds down to Judea, but wanted to be careful about how the money got there.
3. **Charge**. The brethren determined that they would send the money by putting Barnabas and Saul in charge of the money.
4. **Barnabas**. Barnabas had come from Jerusalem and had a good reputation both in Jerusalem and Antioch for being a man of God.
5. **Saul**. Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch and he ministered there for more than a year with God blessing his ministry. Therefore, because Barnabas and Saul were already ministry partners, it seemed obvious that they should send the money through Saul and Barnabas.
6. **To**. Living holy in the family of God means that local assemblies should be very careful about how they send money to other assemblies.
7. **Elders**. We rejoice today because the church at Antioch sent the money to the elders in Judea. As elders those saints would be best suited to knowing the needs of the various people and seeing that the money was distributed properly among the people in need.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking care of how we send money from place to place among believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by putting trusted servants of God in charge of sending money to other assemblies.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by taking care to send money to the elders so that they will be responsible for the proper distribution of the money.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in how God provides money to the disciples so they will know to share it with other disciples in need. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking care to entrust money to faithful servants who will deliver that money to elders for its proper use?

HALLELUJAH !

4

Peter and the Angel Today

At about that time Herod the king laid hands on some Christians to mistreat them. He had James the brother of John put to death with a sword. Having seen it pleased the Jews, Herod took Peter into custody. He was imprisoned and four squads of soldiers were sent to guard him. They were intending after the Passover to bring out Peter before the people. Meanwhile, the church made fervent prayer to God on behalf of Peter.

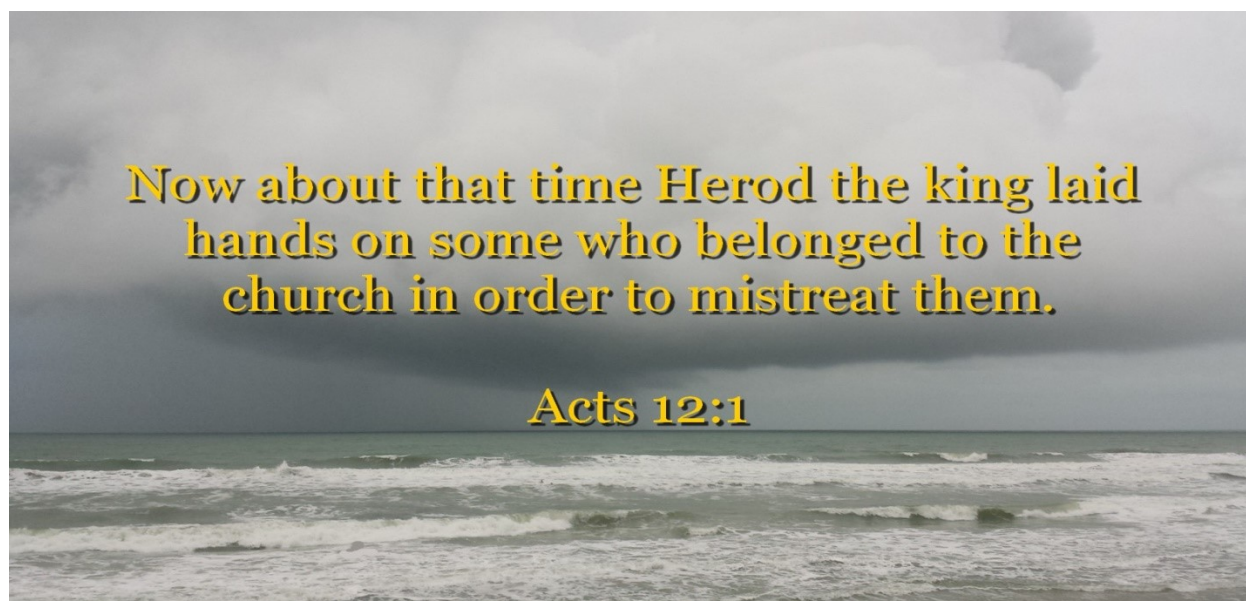
On the very night Herod intended to bring him before the people, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers bound with two chains and guards in front of the door watching the prison. An angel suddenly appeared and Peter's chains fell off. The angel then led Peter outside the prison. At first Peter did not understand what was happening, but once outside, the angel sent him on his way. Peter went to the house of Mary but a servant girl Rhoda answered the door. She was so overwhelmed by seeing Peter that she left him outside and ran inside to announce his arrival. Eventually they came outside to see him and Peter told them to report these things to James and the brethren. He then departed for another place.

When day came the soldiers were in trouble because Peter had left the prison. Herod searched for him and did not find him. Therefore, he ordered the guards to be led away to execution and he left for Caesarea.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 415

Herod Today



What was King Herod doing? About the time of the famine, King Herod laid hands on some people who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them.

King Herod was a very evil man. John the Baptist had been beheaded by King Herod. The government was in league with the religious leaders and putting Jesus to death.

While the early persecution of the believers after Pentecost largely originated with the religious leaders, we now see King Herod taking an active role in the persecution of the saints in Judea. King Herod began to mistreat the saints who belonged to the church in Judea.

The history of Christianity includes many periods of government intrusion upon the life of the true church. Apostate groups called themselves churches, but they were not composed of born-again believers. Those apostate churches grew to influence both governments and countries for many centuries. The apostate churches were intertwined with evil

governments and they corrupted each other each other in ways that produced unholy results.

Mistreat

1. **About**. About the time of the famine relief effort to Judea from Antioch, things in Judea became worse from government persecution.

2. **Herod**. Herod ruled as a Jewish king under the domination of the Roman Empire.

3. **King**. As a king of a certain territory, Herod had a small area he controlled as a religious king following secular orders from Rome.

4. **Hands**. Herod determined to lay hands on certain people who belonged to the church.

5. **Belonged**. They belonged to the church because they had been saved by the grace of God and born again.

6. **Church**. Living holy in the family of God means that some government officials persecute the church to their own destruction.

7. **Mistreat**. We rejoice today because God cares when government officials mistreat believers and God declared their mistreatment was a sign of impending destruction for those government leaders who persecute the church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting that Kings and other men in authority will persecute the church.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the Lord Jesus Christ takes it very personally when anyone persecutes His church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that Jesus builds His church, no matter what the opposition brings.**

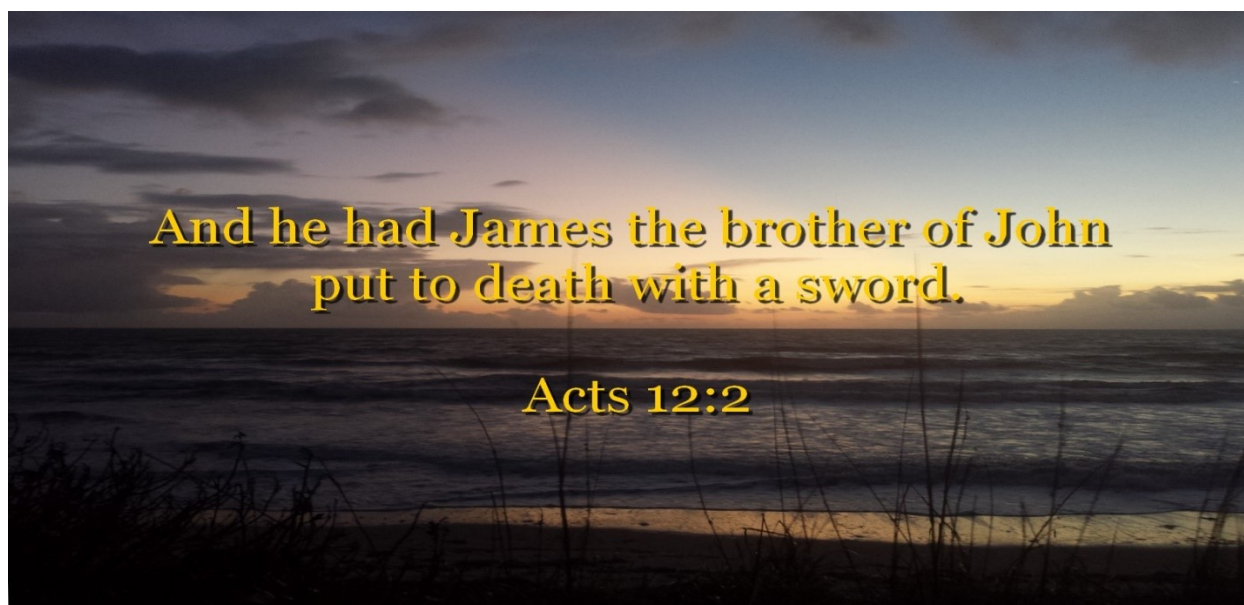
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to take appropriate action in His time against every government and every official that persecutes the church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing that the Lord Jesus Christ loves the church and will bring appropriate judgments upon all who oppose Him and His work through the church?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 416

James Today



What happened to James the brother of John? King Herod had him put to death with a sword.

The apostles received intense persecution from the religious Council and the government authorities. Then for a while the churches in Judea and Galilee and Samaria experienced a relative peace.

King Herod then began a new wave of persecution. That time coincided with the prophets' pronouncement about a famine falling upon all of the world. King Herod laid hands on some who belonged to the church in order to mistreat them.

James and John were sons of Zebedee, nicknamed the Sons of Thunder. By killing one of the 12 apostles, King Herod signaled that he intended to persecute the saints and the apostles. King Herod often worked closely with the religious Council. During the persecution following the murder of Stephen, the apostles remained in Jerusalem while others fled. That persecution spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to many new

areas and ultimately led to the conversion of the Greeks. The apostles had become special targets of the wicked government.

Death

1. **He**. What did Herod do to James? Herod murdered James the apostle.
2. **James**. James was the brother of John and the son of Zebedee.
3. **Put**. Herod had James put to death.
4. **To**. Herod gave the order for James to be murdered. Herod did not fear God.
5. **Death**. Herod chose an especially cruel method for murdering John.
6. **With**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that John suffered martyrdom for his faith by being put to death with a sword.
7. **Sword**. We rejoice today because John has eternal life and lives even now with Jesus, although his body was put to death with a sword.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the evil worked by King Herod.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that governments will oppose believers and seek to kill many of them and all the more as the return of the Lord Jesus approaches.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never forgetting the intense persecution of the early church and the apostles.**

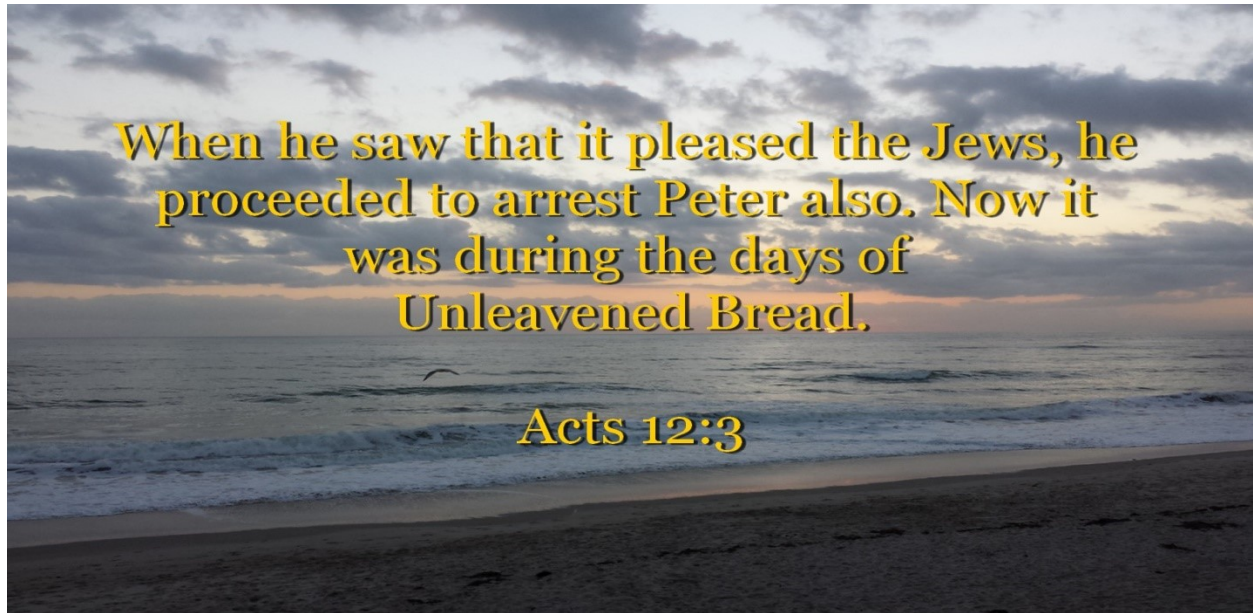
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the intense persecution of the early church and the apostles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that very brave saints persevered in their faith and continued to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 417

Arrest Today



What motivated King Herod to try to kill Peter? King Herod saw that it pleased the Jews when he murdered James.

King Herod had murdered James, the brother of John, and it pleased the Jews. While many of the Jews converted to faith in Christ Jesus, many other Jews opposed Christianity and hated the apostles in particular.

Jesus had prophesied to the apostles that they would be hated by the world just like the world hated Jesus without cause. The world hated Jesus because He was not of the world, but testified to the world of their sinfulness and need for a Savior. Likewise, the saints were not of the world and so the world hated them.

Both the religious Council and King Herod joined in persecuting the church. With the arrest and murder of James, all the apostles had new cause to be concerned about a new wave of persecution, more lethal than the previous persecutions. The Lord Jesus had warned the disciples that they would be fiercely persecuted for the sake of His Name and that day was upon them.

Peter

1. **When**. Why did Herod arrest Peter too? Herod saw that the murder of James pleased the Jews.

2. **He**. Herod took note that the Jews no longer supported the apostles, but now were pleased with the murder of James.

3. **Saw**. Herod held the political position as king. He had limited power granted to him by the Roman government. He sought to please the Jewish people.

4. **Pleased**. Herod noted that he pleased the Jews by executing James.

5. **Jews**. The Jews rejected Jesus and called out for His crucifixion. After witnessing the miracles taking place in Jerusalem after Pentecost, the Jews ultimately forsook God and supported the murder of the apostles.

6. **Arrest**. Living holy in the family of God means that Herod arrested Peter to continue pleasing the Jews. They supported the murder of James and Herod understood they would support the murder of Peter too.

7. **Peter**. We rejoice today because God cares about the persecution of His church and takes note of every person who takes the life of His beloved children. By arresting Peter, Herod caused the church to pray.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the cynical motivations of Herod in arresting Peter.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that governments will rise up against saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the early church suffered intense persecution.**

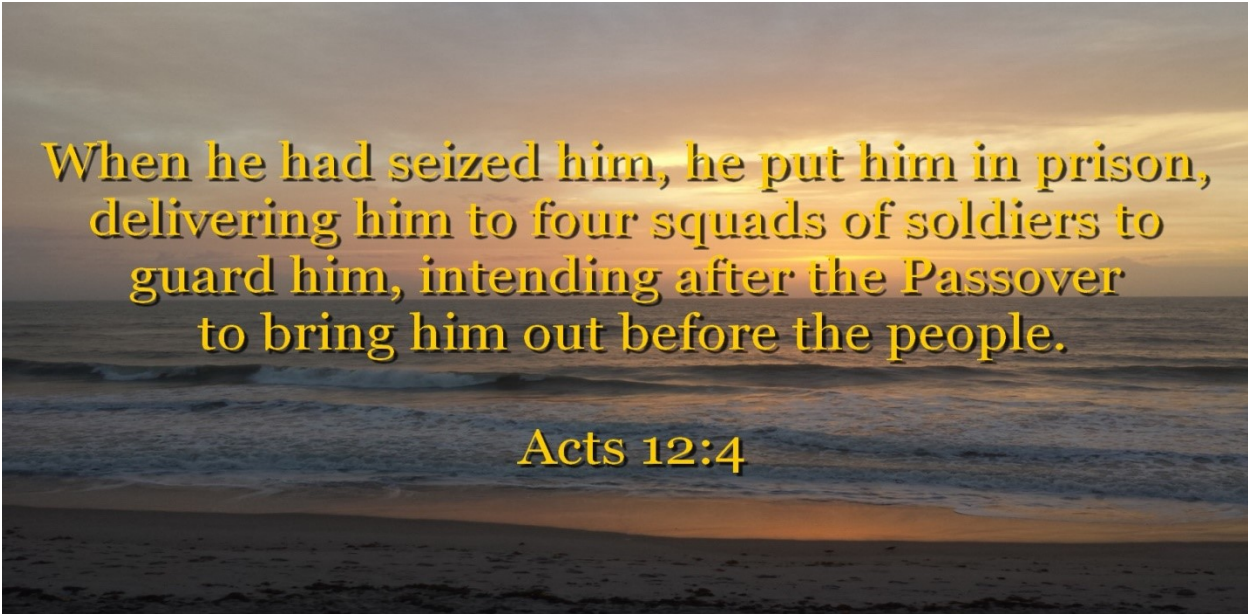
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that the world hates Christians and world governments will persecute believers in the future, just like they did in the past. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to help His church to endure persecution at the hands of evil tyrants?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 418

Seized Today



When he had seized him, he put him in prison,
delivering him to four squads of soldiers to
guard him, intending after the Passover
to bring him out before the people.

Acts 12:4

What steps did Herod take after arresting Peter? Herod put him in prison with four squads of soldiers to guard him.

Herod may have recalled that the apostles were arrested and put in jail previously. The next day when the soldiers went to collect them from the jail, they found the prisoners missing, but the guards at their posts and everything else in order. An angel of the Lord had come the previous night and freed them and led them out of the prison. The angel directed them to go to the Temple and resume teaching, declaring the whole message of God. The religious Council sent the soldiers to the Temple and brought them back without violence for fear of the people stoning them. After the arrest and murder of James by King Herod, the Jews no longer opposed persecuting the apostles.

Apparently, the mood of the Jews in Jerusalem had begun to shift in opposition to the apostles. Earlier the soldiers worried about being stoned when they arrested the apostles in the Temple. Now the Jews were pleased that the apostle James had been killed with the sword. King Herod intended

to bring Peter out before the people after the Passover. Just as the Jewish crowd had cried out to crucify Jesus, so also Herod anticipated the Jewish crowds would cry out for the murder of Peter.

Prison

1. **Seized**. What was Herod intending to do with Peter? Herod intended to bring him out to the people after the Passover.

2. **Prison**. Herod had imprisoned Peter after Herod had murdered James with a sword.

3. **Four**. Herod intended to keep Peter in jail and ordered four squads of soldiers to guard him.

4. **Squads**. Herod figured that four squads of soldiers would be sufficient to guard one man in chains inside a prison.

5. **Soldiers**. Herod had access to soldiers and used them to add extra layers of protection against any escape by Peter.

6. **Passover**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter slept in prison between two soldiers kept secure in Christ. The Lord Jesus had told Peter that he would grow old.

7. **People**. We rejoice today because even when people on earth reject us and seek to persecute the church, we remain eternally secure in Christ knowing that absent from the body is present with the Lord Jesus and our bodies will be resurrected when He returns to the clouds of earth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the evil that Herod plotted against Peter as he held him in jail with four squads of soldiers guarding him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Peter endured persecution for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the promises He made to keep us safe with Him for all eternity, no matter what happens on earth.**

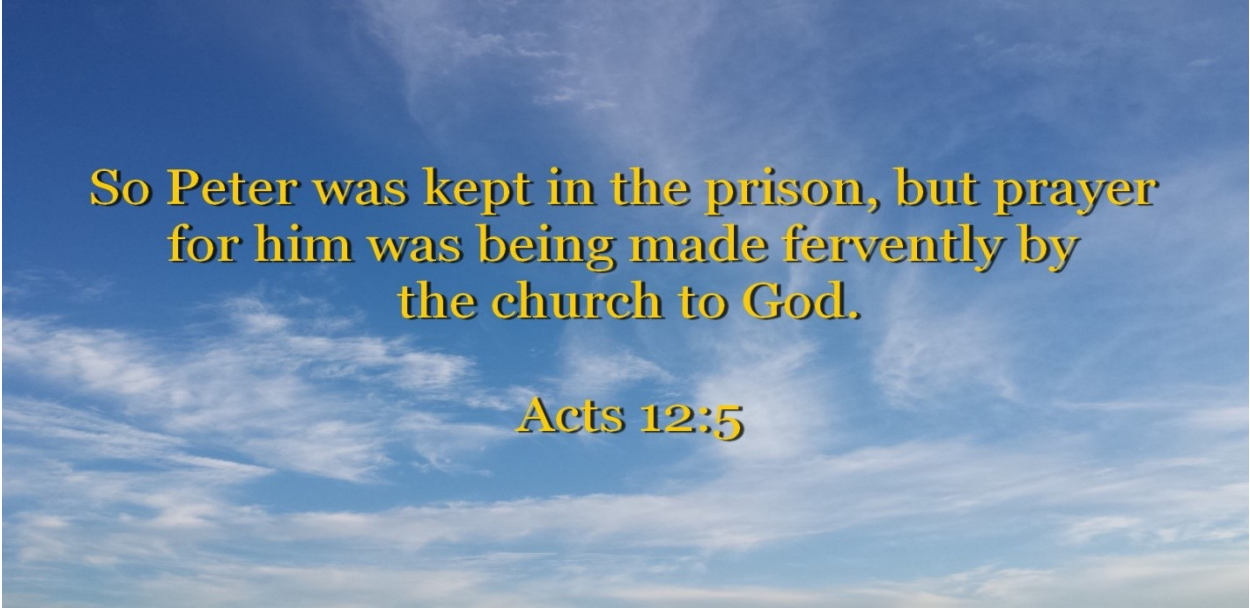
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord Jesus for his constant care and watchfulness. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God watches every move of every enemy on earth?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 419

Prayer Today



So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer
for him was being made fervently by
the church to God.

Acts 12:5

What did the saints do to help Peter in prison? The saints made fervent prayer to God for Peter.

King Herod had murdered James the brother of John. What he saw that it pleased the Jews, he arrested Peter too. Just as Jesus had warned His apostles, the world targeted them for persecution and death.

Jesus taught His disciples to pray. Once Peter was arrested by King Herod, the church began to pray in earnest for Peter. When the apostles were arrested by the religious Council earlier, an angel of the Lord came and rescued them from prison, by unfastening their chains and leading them out of the prison.

The church of God had been persecuted in the past in Judea. Many of the saints had fled that persecution, moving into the far distant lands. The apostles and stayed behind in Jerusalem while others fled. They continued their ministry there.

God has all the power to deliver from prison. Every prison on earth rests on His planet. Many times God had delivered people from certain death. The saints were praying for Peter that God would deliver him too.

Fervently

1. **Peter**. Why were the saints praying for Peter? They were praying because he been arrested after James was murdered by Herod.

2. **Kept**. Herod was intent upon keeping Peter in jail and used four squads of soldiers to do it.

3. **Prison**. Herod put Peter in prison so that he could display him after Passover to the people.

4. **Prayer**. While Peter was in Herod's prison, the church prayed for Peter.

5. **Fervently**. The church prayed fervently for Peter and we know that the prayers of a righteous man accomplish much.

6. **Church**. Living holy in the family of God means that the church should always pray for all the saints in trouble and held in prison.

7. **God**. We rejoice today because God moves his people to pray for His will, especially in times of trouble.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering to pray fervent prayers in the church, especially when the saints are in trouble.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God to answer our prayers according to the will of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His divine plans for each of our lives even during times of trouble and persecution.**

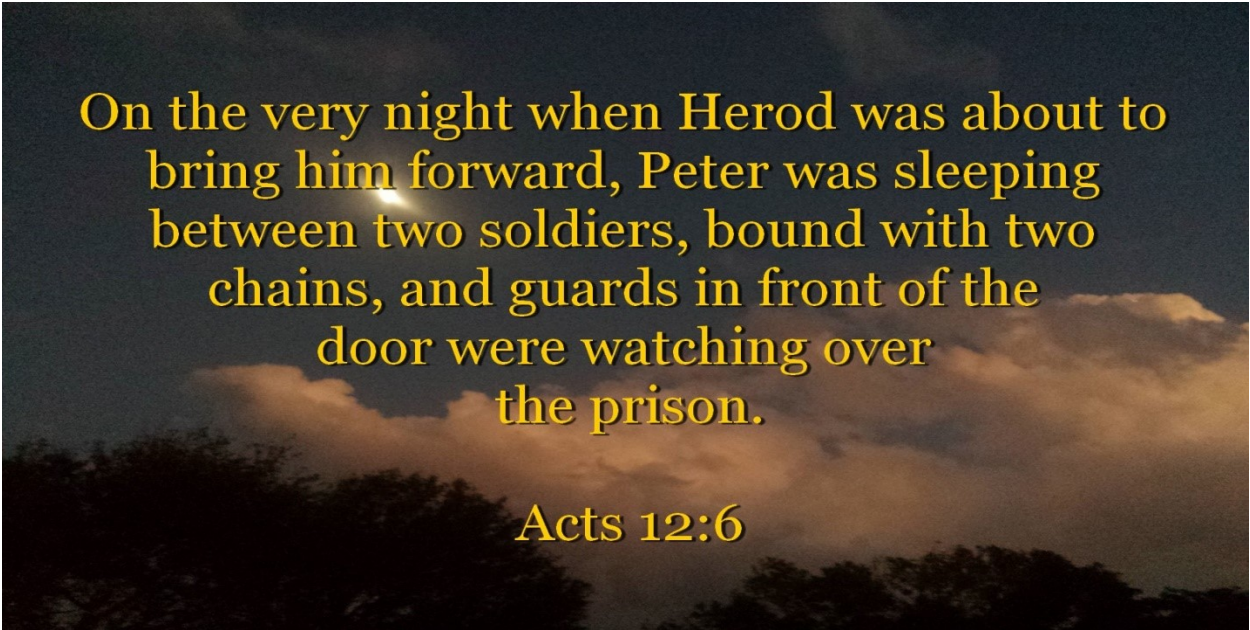
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that prayers can make a big difference. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to pray for people suffering persecution?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 420

Bound Today



On the very night when Herod was about to bring him forward, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and guards in front of the door were watching over the prison.

Acts 12:6

What was Peter doing on the night before he was to be brought out by Herod to the people? Peter was sleeping between two soldiers in prison.

The night before Herod was going to bring Peter out before the Jews, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. He was bound with two chains and guards in front of the doors were watching over the prison. Apparently, King Herod had learned from the first time the apostles were arrested and God sent an angel to deliver them. Herod did not learn that it is improper to arrest the apostles. Instead, Herod learned to try to keep the prisoners more securely. Of course, angels have supernatural powers and cannot be overcome by more guards or more chains. In one night the Angel of Yahweh killed one hundred and eighty five thousand Assyrians. Another angel killed all the firstborn in Egypt in one night. Humans are no matches for angels.

Herod took measures to try to keep Peter in jail. The saints prayed for his release. The spiritual battle was underway. Meanwhile, Peter was asleep between two soldiers. The two chains binding Peter did not stop him from sleeping.

Guards

1. **Night**. What precaution had Herod taken to keep Peter in prison? Herod brought extra soldiers to guard Peter and chained Peter and extra guards were watching over the prison.

2. **Bring**. Herod intended to bring Peter out to the Jews the day after Passover. The crowd had already approved Herod's murder of James.

3. **Peter**. Peter was held in prison and Herod had taken steps to keep Peter in jail using extra chains and soldiers.

4. **Sleeping**. With all those extra precautions against escape in place, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers with two chains on him.

5. **Soldiers**. The two soldiers had a duty to stay with Peter and to be certain that he did not escape.

6. **Chains**. Living holy in the family of God means that some of God's saints suffer chains in great persecution because of their faithful service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Guards**. We rejoice today because Herod could use all the guards in the world to try to keep Peter in prison, but God had the power to free Peter at any time.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God does not need anyone's permission to release prisoners from jail.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Peter sleeping with two chains binding him, and a soldier on either side of him.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He cares for every prisoner and has a special plan for every saint suffering persecution because of His Name.**

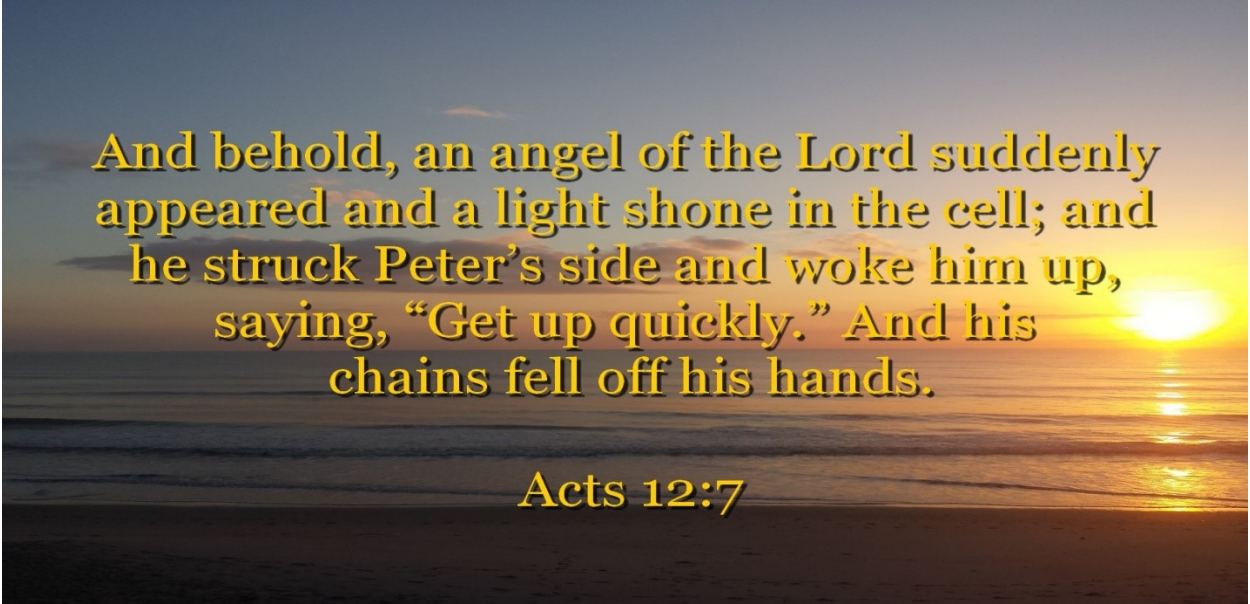
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding the plans of God to help the church endure persecution. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying fervently while saints sleep in prison?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 421

Angel Today



And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter's side and woke him up, saying, "Get up quickly." And his chains fell off his hands.

Acts 12:7

What happened in Peter's cell? An angel of the Lord showed up in his cell.

Herod had arrested Peter after murdering James. Herod took extra measures to be sure that Peter did not escape from the jail. Herod put four squads of soldiers to guard him and to guard the gate. Herod also clapped Peter into chains and stationed a guard on either side of him.

Previously the apostles had been arrested by the religious Council and an angel of the Lord had released them from the prison. When the Council called for them the next morning, the officers found the prison guards at station and everything locked up, but no apostles were in the prison. Herod wanted to be sure that Peter was kept in prison securely. Herod did not understand the powers of an angel.

The angel of the Lord appeared in Peter's cell. A light appeared and shone in the cell. The angel struck Peter in his side and commanded him to wake up and get up quickly. Peter's chains fell off. While Herod had taken all

steps that he could to keep Peter in jail, God only needed to send one angel to release Peter and no one could stop his escape.

Appeared

1. **Behold**. What happened in Peter's cell? An angel of the Lord showed up suddenly with a flash of light.
2. **Angel**. God sent an angel of the Lord to help Peter in prison.
3. **Light**. Suddenly light flashed around the cell when the angel arrived.
4. **Struck**. The angel then struck Peter in the side and woke him up. Peter had no problems sleeping in prison, chained between two soldiers.
5. **Get**. The angel commanded Peter to get up quickly.
6. **Chains**. Living holy in the family of God means that the chains fell off of the hands of Peter when the angel arrived to rescue him from prison.
7. **Hands**. We rejoice today because the angel caused the chains on Peter's hands to fall to the ground, because God wanted Peter to be rescued from that prison cell.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the angel of God visiting Peter in the cell and waking him up.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His infinite power to rescue people from any evil.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the angel visiting Peter in jail and leading him outside.**

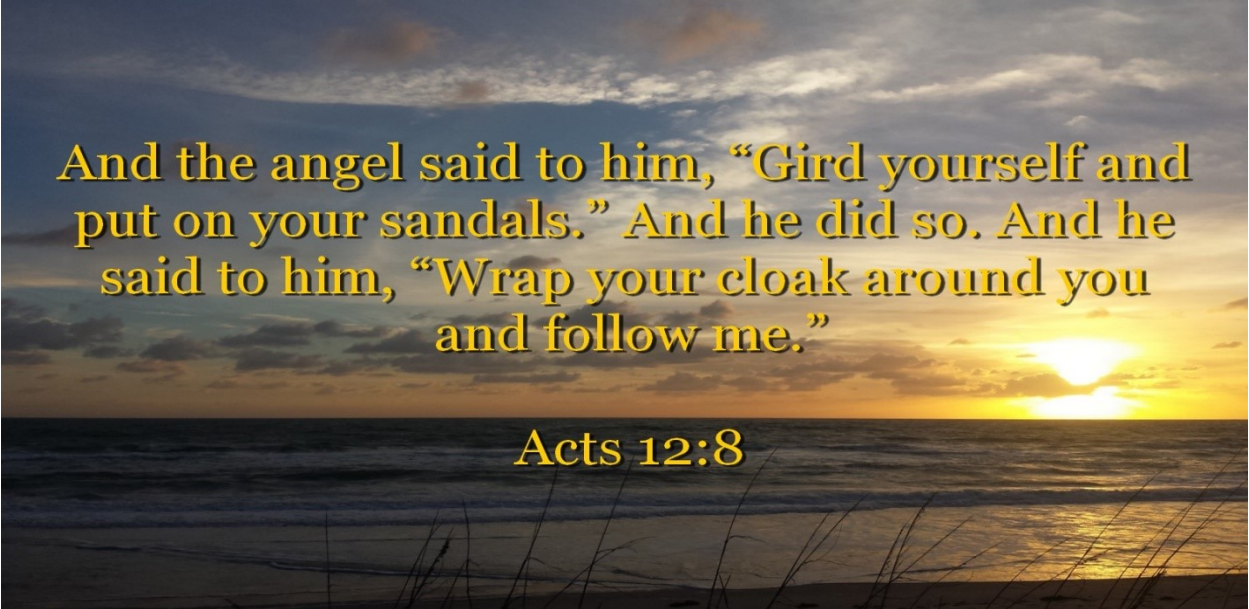
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping the God Who cares enough to send an angel to rescue Peter from the jail. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to use His power at His discretion to do His will in your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 422

Gird Yourself Today



And the angel said to him, “Gird yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.”

Acts 12:8

What did the angel tell Peter to do? The angel told Peter to gird himself and put on his sandals.

With a flash of light an angel appeared in the cell of Peter where Herod kept him under lock and key with soldiers guarding him. In fact, Herod had stationed four squads of guards to secure Peter in the prison.

God sent an angel to deliver Peter. The angel told Peter to gird himself and put on his sandals. Peter immediately did so. The angel then told Peter to wrap his cloak around him and to follow the angel.

One angel has all the power needed to free one man from an entire prison guarded by squads of soldiers. Humans tend to forget the power of God and His angels. Humans are so used to dealing only with humans that they completely ignore the power of one angel to kill thousands and thousands of people in one night and to make chains fall off the hands of prisoners.

God sent an angel to deliver Peter from the prison of Herod. The church had been praying fervently for the release of Peter and God answered that prayer by sending an angel to the prison.

Follow

1. **Angel**. How did the angel deliver Peter from the prison cell? The angel led Peter out of the cell.
2. **Gird**. The angel commanded Peter to gird himself.
3. **Sandals**. The angel then told Peter to put on his sandals. The angel intended for Peter to walk out of that prison, past all the guards, with gates opened, to his freedom outside the prison.
4. **Did**. Peter did just as the angel commanded him.
5. **Wrap**. The angel then commanded Peter to wrap himself in his cloak.
6. **Cloak**. Living holy in the family of God means that Peter used his cloak to walk out of the prison without any opposition from any of the guards.
7. **Follow**. We rejoice today because Peter first followed the commands of the angel to put on his clothes and shoes and then followed the angel out of the prison.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by listening to what God says to us as He comes to rescue us.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by getting ready to leave as God opens the doors for us to leave.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that His angel told Peter exactly what to do to be ready to leave that prison behind.**

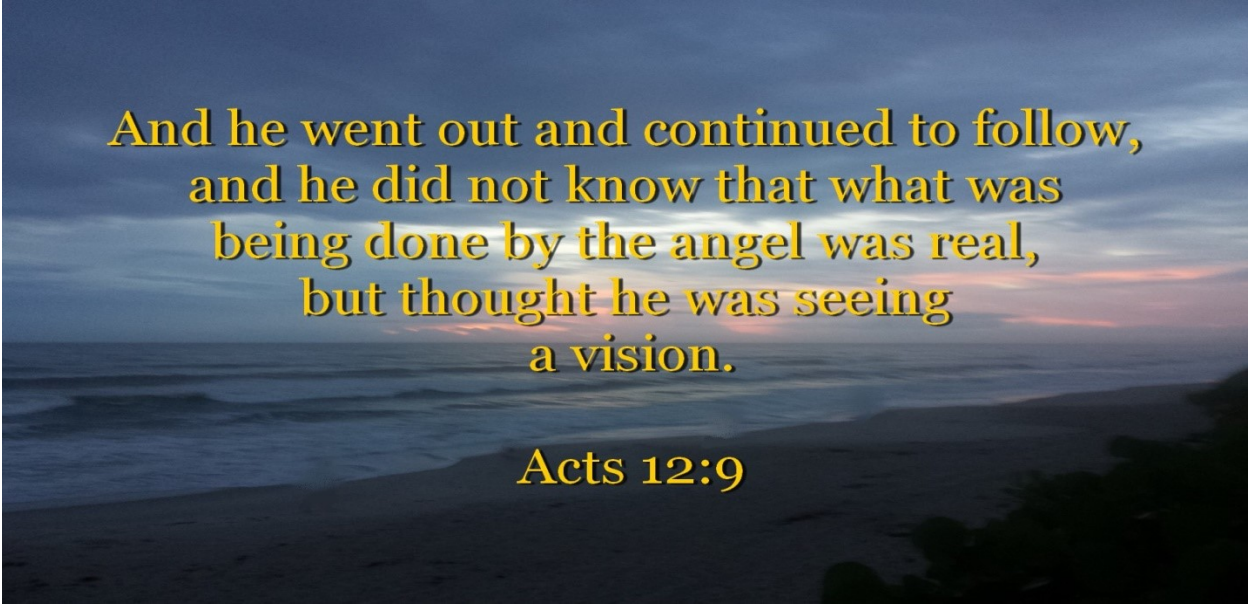
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by guarding ourselves and being ready for God to lead us out of our prisons. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon God to rescue you, according to His will?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 423

Continued Today



And he went out and continued to follow,
and he did not know that what was
being done by the angel was real,
but thought he was seeing
a vision.

Acts 12:9

What was Peter thinking? As Peter followed the angel out of the prison, Peter did not know if he was seeing a vision or reality.

God sent an angel to deliver Peter from the prison of Herod. Peter was chained between two soldiers when the angel showed up in a flash of light in the prison cell. The angel struck Peter in the side and told him to get up and get moving. Following the command of the angel to put on his robe and gird himself, Peter followed the angel.

Peter did not know if he was seeing reality or a vision. At Joppa on the housetop of Simon the Tanner, Peter had seen a vision. In that vision Peter saw a sheet lowered from heaven to the earth, with all kinds of unclean animals in it. Peter heard a voice from heaven telling him to kill and eat and no longer consider unholy anything that God has cleansed. Peter knew what a vision was like, but as he followed the angel out of the prison, Peter did not know if he was seeing another vision.

God answered the fervent prayers of the early church. The church had seen King Herod murder James the brother of John. The Jews were happy

with the murder so King Herod arrested Peter, triggering the fervent prayers from the church for his safety.

Real

1. **He**. What was Peter's state of mind? With a light flashing in a cell and the angel leading him, and with the chains falling off his hands, Peter was not sure what was real and what might be a vision.

2. **Out**. The angel led Peter out of the prison.

3. **Continued**. Having left the prison, Peter continued to follow the angel.

4. **Follow**. Peter wisely followed the angel because Peter understood that Herod would be after him sooner or later.

5. **Know**. Peter did not know whether he was seeing another vision like he saw in Joppa, or if things were real.

6. **Real**. Living holy in the family of God means that God does some things that are so wonderful in our lives that we cannot tell if they are real or not at the time.

7. **Vision**. We rejoice today because Paul was not seeing a vision in that cell, but the angel really did lead him out to safety from the prison.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the angel who came and led Peter out of the prison.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by following God as He leads us to safety in our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying fervently for people who are in jail because of their faith and testimony for the Lord Jesus Christ.**

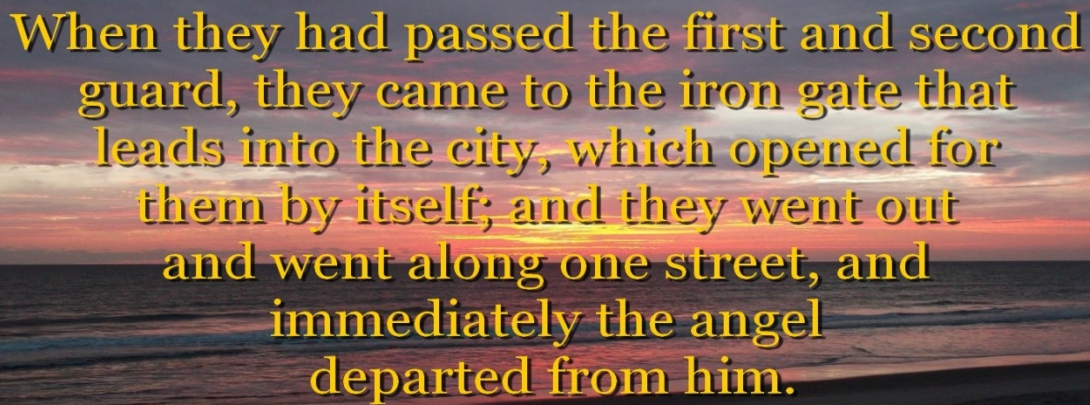
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping the God of infinite power who releases prisoners from their bondage. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the way He sent the angel to lead Peter out of prison?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 424

Gate Today



When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate that leads into the city, which opened for them by itself; and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

Acts 12:10

When Peter and the angel arrived at the gate of the prison, what happened with the gate? The gate opened automatically.

King Herod imprisoned Peter and set extra squads of guards to make sure he stayed put in prison. God sent an angel to Peter. Light flashed in the prison cell and his chains fell off and he was free, but still in a prison full of soldiers. The angel led Peter out of the cell. When they arrived at the prison gate it opened automatically. They went along one street and then the angel left Peter alone.

King Herod had murdered James, and so arrested Peter seeking to please the population of Jews. Herod also knew that the apostles had been arrested previously and they escaped the prison to return to the Temple and continue teaching there.

Now an angel had helped Peter escape from the prison. People like Herod forget the power of Almighty God and His angels. As Gamaliel had warned the religious Council previously, no human should resist God and His work. Herod already had blood on his hands from his murder of James

and he sought to compound his guilt by murdering Peter. Being a politician at heart, Herod sought to please the Jews by taking the life of Peter.

Street

1. **When**. How did Peter and the angel get past the iron gate? The gate opened automatically for them. When they had passed the first and second guard, they came to the iron gate.

2. **Passed**. The angel and Peter passed right by two guards and the guards did nothing to stop them.

3. **Iron**. The iron gate separated the prison from the way to the city.

4. **Leads**. The iron gate leads to the city.

5. **Opened**. The gate itself opened automatically, without any form of human assistance.

6. **Street**. Living holy in the family of God means that the angel took Peter as far as one street, but no further. Peter had been delivered from the prison, but he had not yet found a place to receive him.

7. **Departed**. We rejoice today because Peter followed the directions of the angel and then the angel departed from Peter after taking him out to the street.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the angel who led Peter out of the prison and the iron gate that swung open automatically.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the way He swings open iron gates with no human effort.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the detailed account of Peter being delivered by the angel from the prison.**

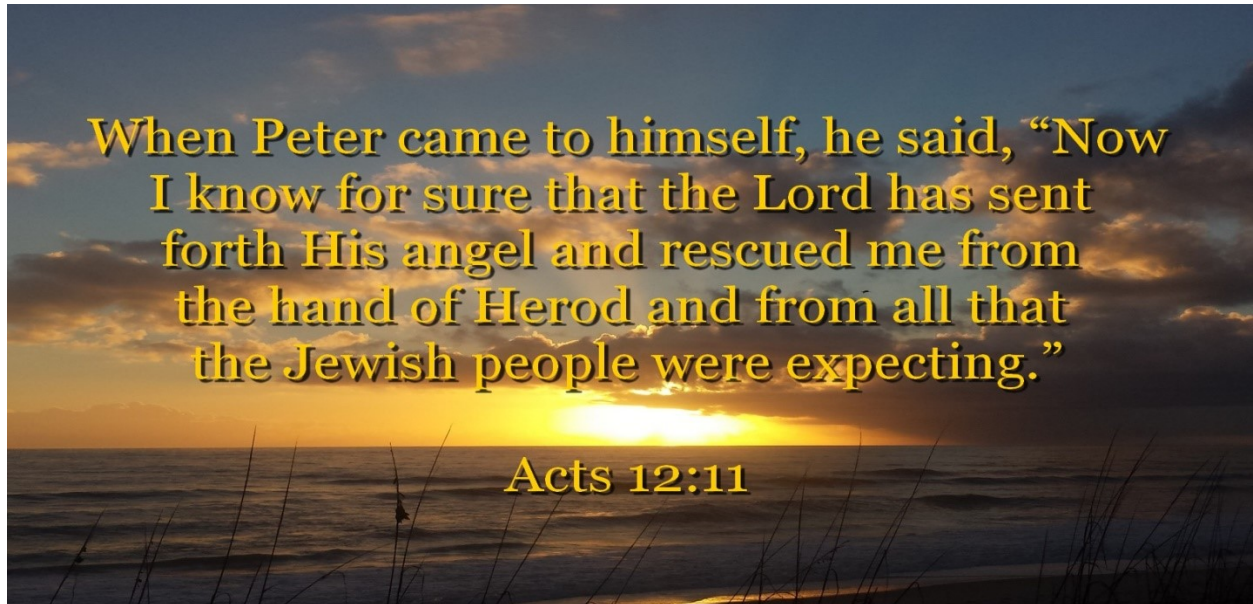
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in God who sends angels at just the right time and place to help people in need. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for the way He sends angels to help people?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 425

Peter Today



When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.”

Acts 12:11

What happened when Peter came to himself? They knew for sure that the Lord had sent an angel and rescued him.

After King Herod imprisoned Peter, the angel of the Lord appeared in his cell with a flash of light. His chains fell off and he was free. The angel let him out through the gate which opened by itself. After directing him down the street, the angel left and Peter was alone.

Peter did not know if he was seeing a vision like he had at Joppa or whether it was reality. When Peter came to himself, he figured out what was really going on. Peter suddenly understood that the Lord had sent forth his angel and rescued him from the hand of Herod. God also rescued Peter from all that the Jews were expecting.

When King Herod murdered James, the Jews lauded Herod for doing so. Therefore, Herod thought it would be a good idea to arrest Peter also, believing that the Jews would like to see Peter put to death also. The Jews had crucified Jesus in Jerusalem, crying out “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”

Peter, having regained his senses, knew that the authorities would be tracking him down quickly and he was on the street.

Rescued

1. **When**. What were the Jews expecting? They were expecting that Herod would kill Peter to please them, just like Herod killed James.

2. **Peter**. When Peter came to himself, he said that now he knows for sure that the Lord has sent forth His angel. Peter suddenly understood the reality of the supernatural event.

3. **Know**. Peter said that now I know what the Lord has actually done by sending an angel to rescue me.

4. **Lord**. The power of the supernatural rescue caused Peter to lose himself for a while during the rescue. He could not take in all the events as they happened. The Lord had done a great work through the angel for the benefit of Peter and the church.

5. **Angel**. The Lord sent an angel to rescue Peter, but that rescue included things that were far beyond the ordinary order of events.

6. **Rescued**. Living holy in the family of God means that God can use all means to rescue you, far beyond human abilities and comprehension.

7. **Expecting**. We rejoice today because the Jews did not get what they were expecting from Herod. They were expecting Herod to kill Peter just like he killed James.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Peter came to realize what had truly happened with the rescue by the angel sent from God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that His works are so powerful and so supernatural that Peter could not comprehend them immediately.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His kindness and love in rescuing Peter from the hand of King Herod.**

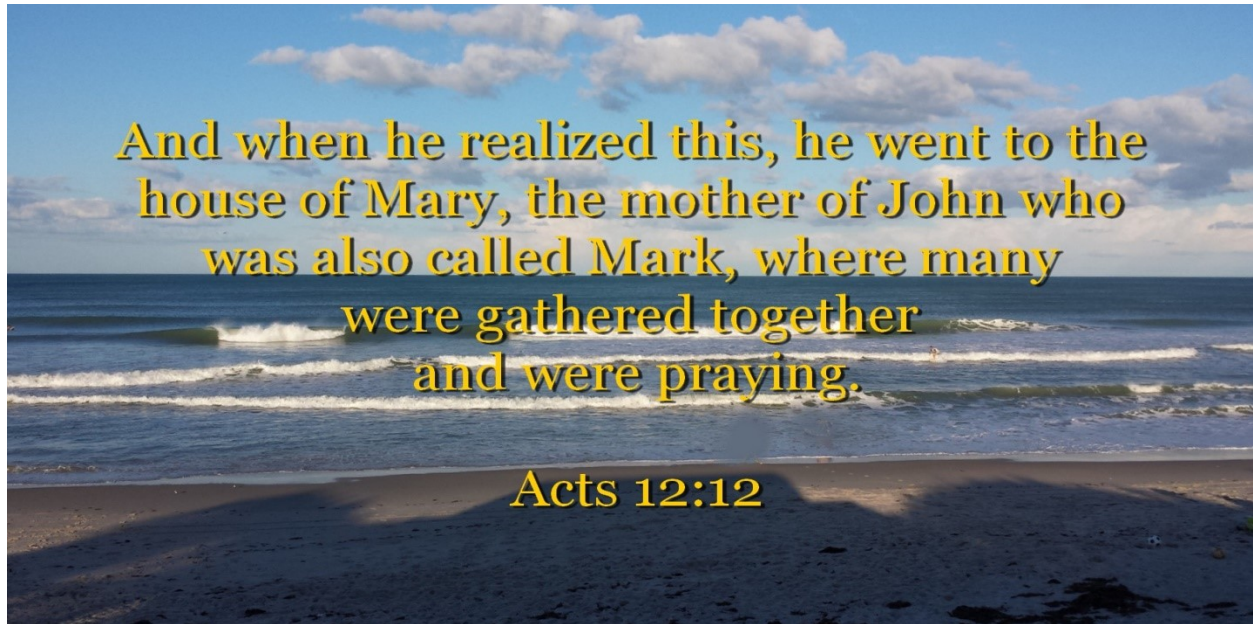
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Peter could not easily comprehend the power of God used to rescue him from prison. Will you live holy in the family of God today by bowing your heart before God and acknowledging His great power over our lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 426

Realized Today



After Peter was released from prison by the angel, where did he go? Peter went to the house of Mary the mother of John Mark.

Many people were praying fervently for the release of Peter. In fact, many people at the house of Mary were praying right then for the release of Peter.

Herod killed James with a sword and then arrested Peter because the death of James pleased the crowd. Herod had murdered James for his faith in Christ and the Jews applauded the murder. Herod, being a politician, sought to please the Jews. Just as the Jews had persuaded Pilate to crucify Jesus, so also they encouraged Herod to kill the apostles.

When Peter was arrested, the saints knew the great danger facing Peter from Herod. Saints should never underestimate the power of prayer. When those saints prayed fervently for Peter while he was in prison, God heard and sent an angel to deliver Peter. The angel led Peter out of the prison and then vanished from his sight once he was outside in the street. Peter knew it was

important to get off the street as quickly as possible and he needed a house to go to. Therefore, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark.

Praying

1. **Realized**. What happened when Peter realized it was not a dream? Peter realized he needed to get off the street.
2. **Went**. Peter went to a house where friends gathered for prayer.
3. **Mary**. Mary held prayer meetings in her home.
4. **John**. Peter went to the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark.
5. **Many**. Many people gathered there for prayer and they were praying when Peter arrived.
6. **Gathered**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints gather together to pray for people in prison and enduring persecution.
7. **Praying**. We rejoice today because saints gather together to pray for Peter while he was in prison.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praying for saints in prison because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by gathering together to pray for people in prison because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praying fervently as one unified group for people who have been arrested because their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

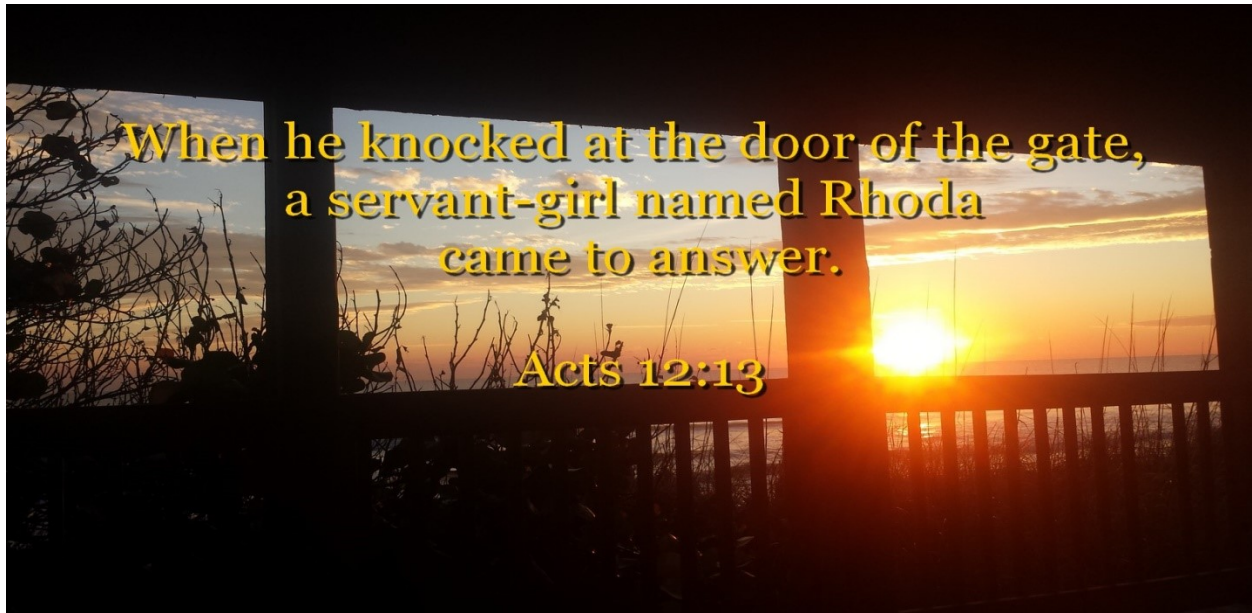
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praying together for special needs, such as saints imprisoned for their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by joining with others in fervent prayer for people arrested because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 427

Knocked Today



Who answered the door of the gate at Mary's house? Rhoda came to the door of the gate at Mary's house and answered the door where Peter was knocking.

God had performed a wonderful miracle in sending an angel to lead Peter out of the prison. King Herod had imprisoned Peter, intending to kill him just like he had killed James with a sword. The angel struck Peter in the side, told him to wake up and get clothed. Peter's chains fell off and he followed the angel right out through four squads of soldiers and guards securing the prison.

The angel vanished quickly after leading Peter out to the street. Peter needed to find shelter, knowing that Herod would send out search parties looking for Peter. God shows His power and grace all the time. In this case the saints had been praying fervently for God to deliver Peter from prison and He did, supernaturally. When Peter arrived at the gate of Mary's house, the saints inside had been praying and were gathered even then to pray for the release of Peter. God had shown His kindness to Peter and answering the

prayers of the saints so that Peter would be returned to them for further service to God.

Answer

1. **Knocked**. What happened when Peter knocked? A servant came to the door.

2. **Door**. Mary's home had a gate to protect it. In this case Peter came to the gate and found the door.

3. **Gate**. Peter began knocking on the door of the gate, seeking to find a place to stay and get off the street.

4. **Servant**. A servant girl heard the knocking and came to the door.

5. **Rhoda**. The servant's name was Rhoda and she came to find out who was knocking at the door of the gate.

6. **Came**. Living holy in the family of God means that Rhoda came out to the gate and found Peter there.

7. **Answer**. We rejoice today because Rhoda answered Peter knocking at the door because someone had sent her to find out who was there. People inside the home were praying fervently for the release of Peter.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by knocking when we want doors to be answered.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by answering knocking at doors after we pray for the release of prisoners.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His immediate answers to prayer, even when we do not expect Him to act so promptly.**

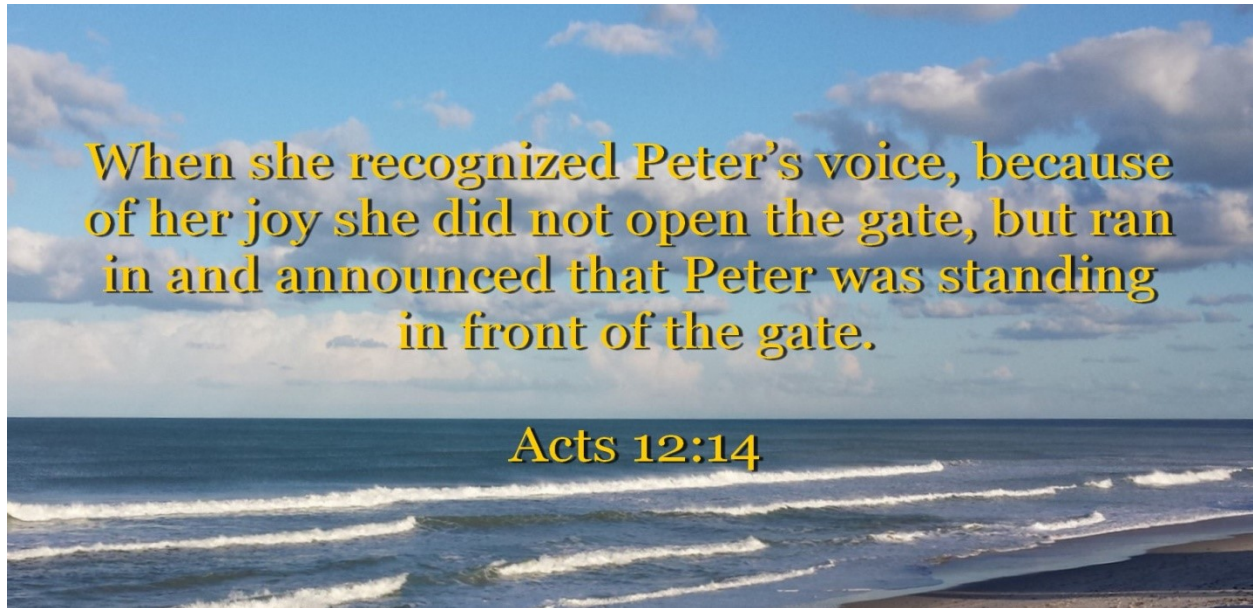
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by answering the knock at the door after praying fervently. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying first and then answering the door when you perceive someone knocks?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 428

Recognized Today



What happened when Rhoda recognized Peter's voice at the gate? Rhoda ran inside and left Peter at the gate.

At times in our lives we can be so overcome with joy that we overlook the obvious. Through the power of the angel sent from God, Peter had escaped from prison. Now he was on the street and the angel had disappeared. Time was of the essence and Peter needed a place to stay. Peter knew that Herod would certainly search for Peter.

Peter made his way to Mary's house. Having knocked on the door of the gate, Rhoda answered the door. Rhoda then heard Peter's voice and she was completely overjoyed. She was so overcome with emotion that she left Peter standing outside in the street and did not open the gate. Instead, she ran inside to where the saints were gathered to pray for Peter and his release from prison.

Having escaped from prison through the power of God, Rhoda left him standing on the street fully exposed to any search parties. Getting Peter off

the street was a top priority. While full of happiness, Rhoda left Peter alone and exposed on the street.

Ran

1. **She**. What did Rhoda do when she answered the knocking at the gate? She recognized Peter's voice.

2. **Recognized**. When Peter knocked he also raised his voice. Rhoda recognized Peter's voice immediately.

3. **Peter's**. Rhoda was familiar with Peter's voice and she knew Peter was standing right outside the gate after all the fervent prayer being offered for Peter to be released from prison.

4. **Joy**. Rhoda was overjoyed with hearing Peter's voice right outside the gate as he was knocking.

5. **Open**. Because Rhoda was overjoyed, she did not open the gate, but decided to go announce Peter had been set free.

6. **Ran**. Living holy in the family of God means that some saints are so overjoyed that God has freed somebody that they lose track of the immediate need of the saint.

7. **Announced**. We rejoice today because Rhoda ran inside and announced that Peter was at the door.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the joy of Rhoda.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never letting our joy hinder us from helping a saint in immediate need.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing when God answers prayers quickly and powerfully.**

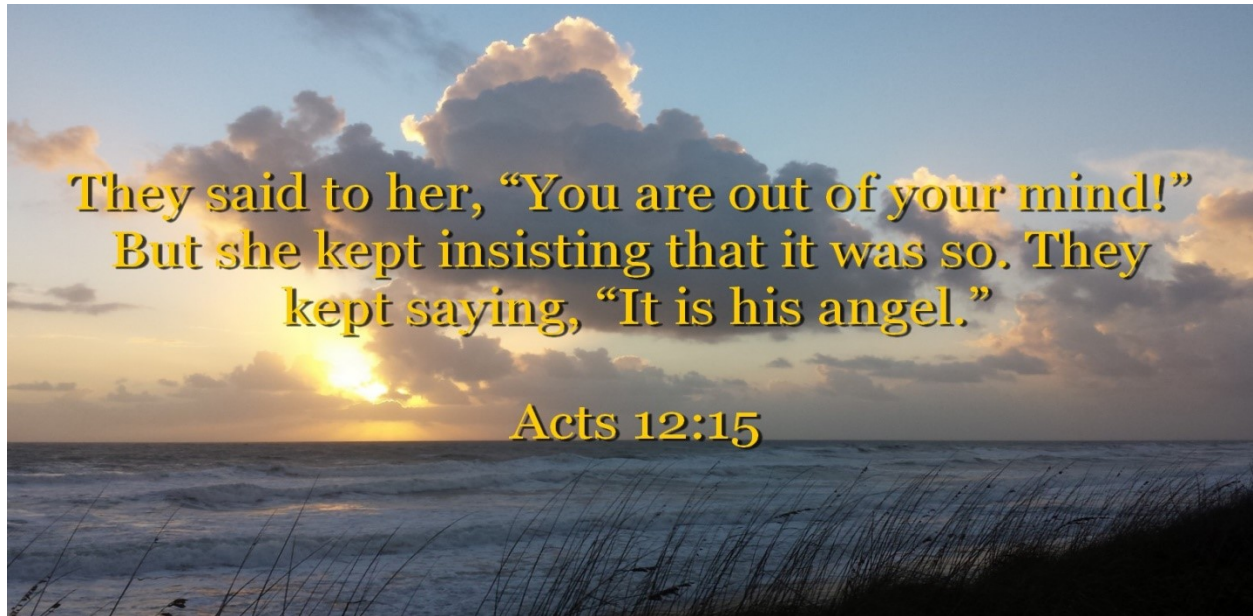
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing when God answers fervent prayer, but not losing sight of the immediate need of the moment. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing and meeting the need of the moment?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 429

They Said Today



What did the saints say to Rhoda? They told her she was out of her mind.

An angel of the Lord led Peter out of the prison, past the guards and out to the street. King Herod had arrested Peter after he had already murdered James with a sword. The Jews praised Herod's murder of James and so Herod sought to arrest Peter and execute him as well.

While Peter was in prison, the saints were busy praying fervently for Peter. God answered their prayer and sent the angel of God to help Peter escape from the prison. Having escaped from the prison, he made his way to the home of Mary, where the saints happened to be praying for Peter's release. Peter then knocked on the door of the gate and Rhoda answered. When she heard it was Peter's voice, she was overcome with joy and ran back inside to tell everyone.

When she told all the saints of Peter outside at the gate, no one believed her, saying that she was out of her mind. Although the saints were praying fervently, they were not expecting God to answer that prayer in the way that

He did. Rhoda kept insisting that Peter was at the gate, but the saints kept telling her it was the angel of Peter. Meanwhile, Peter stood at the gate on the street waiting.

Insisting

1. **You**. When Rhoda ran back inside with her news, what did the saints tell her? They did not believe her words.

2. **Mind**. The saints told Rhoda that she was out of her mind for claiming that Peter was outside by the gate.

3. **Insisting**. Rhoda kept insisting that it was Peter standing out there by the gate and that she had heard his voice.

4. **So**. Rhoda kept saying it was so, just as she had described Peter standing on the street at the door.

5. **Kept**. The saints inside kept telling Rhoda that she was wrong.

6. **Saying**. Living holy in the family of God means that sometimes saints do not receive great news with great grace, but with great doubt.

7. **Angel**. We rejoice today because Rhoda kept telling the truth, even after the saints told Rhoda that the angel of Peter was at the gate, but not Peter himself.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by believing saints that are telling us the truth, even if it is hard to accept at the moment.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by continuing to tell the truth to people who cannot believe the truth when they hear it.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing when people tell us the truth.**

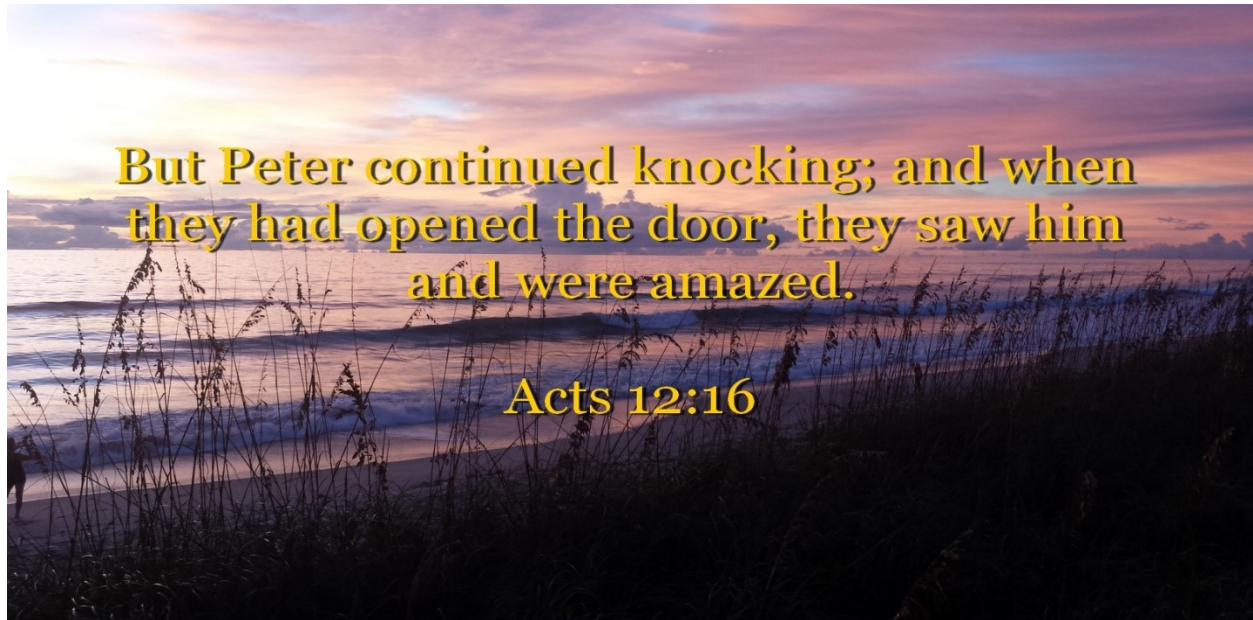
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by believing God answers prayer and accept the reports of those answers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by stopping your doubts that God really does answer our prayers?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 430

Opened Today



What did Peter do while Rhoda was inside the home of Mary talking to the saints? Peter kept on knocking on the door of the gate.

Rhoda had answered the gate when Peter knocked the first time. Rhoda was overcome with joy and ran in to tell everybody inside of Mary's house. When she arrived there and announced the happy news that Peter was at the gate, everyone told her she was out of her mind, saying that it must be his angel. Actually, the angel helped Peter escape, but then disappeared when Peter got on the street.

Peter kept on knocking because he was on the street and needed to get off the street as quickly as possible. No doubt Herod would learn of his escape and send out soldiers to look for him. Peter went to Mary's house because he expected to find shelter there and get off the street.

Eventually the saints opened the door of the gate and were overjoyed to find Peter actually standing there. Rhoda was right all along. The saints were absolutely amazed when they saw Peter standing there. Sometimes fervent prayer produces great results, but even so, the saints were amazed

when they saw Peter standing there. God certainly worked yet another miracle for the benefit of the apostles and the saints and to bring glory to His Name.

Amazed

1. **Peter**. While Rhoda went back inside the home of Mary, what did Peter do out on the street? Peter kept right on knocking on the door of the gate.

2. **Continued**. Peter continued knocking because he needed to get into the house and off the street.

3. **Knocking**. By knocking and knocking and knocking, Peter hoped that someone would actually open the gate and let him into the house so that he would get off the street and away from any pursuers.

4. **Opened**. Finally the people from inside opened the door.

5. **Door**. They thought that the angel of Peter was at the door, but they did not believe Rhoda telling them that Peter was standing at the door and knocking until they opened the door for themselves.

6. **Saw**. Living holy in the family of God means that when the people saw Peter standing at the door, they suddenly realized that their prayers were answered.

7. **Amazed**. We rejoice today because answered prayer can amaze us, but we should always believe that God answers our prayers one way or another.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by answering the door promptly when we know the person knocking.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for answering prayers of deliverance.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing together when God answers prayers in amazing ways.**

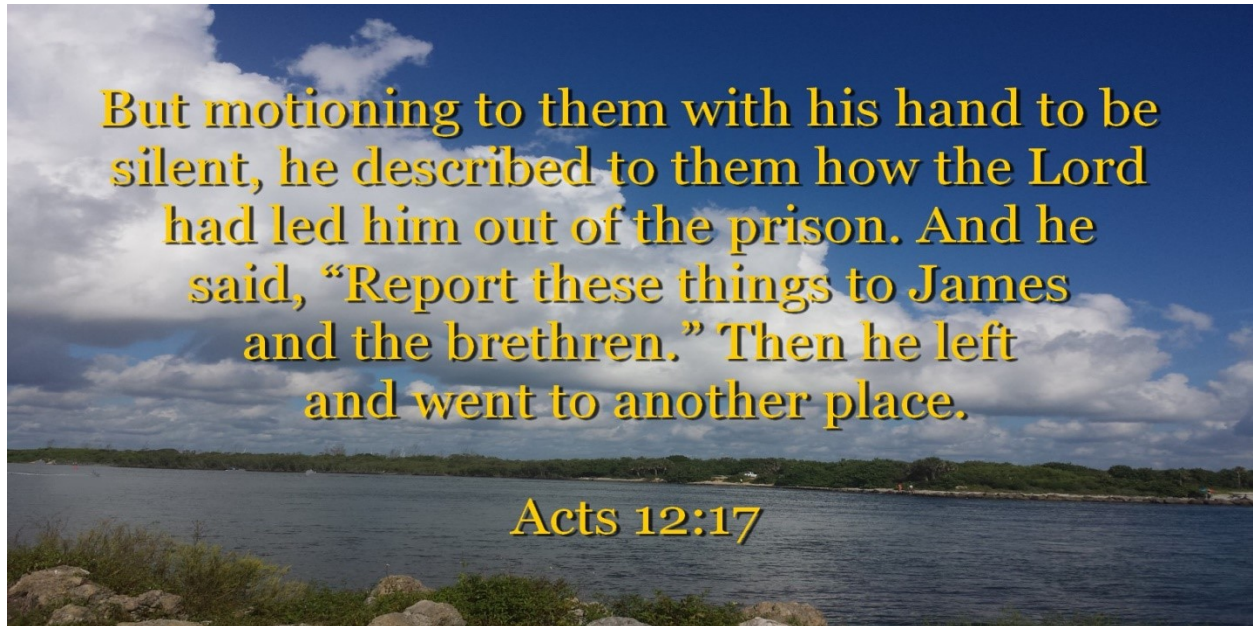
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in the ways God answers prayers and amazes us at the same time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by opening doors and seeing amazing answers to our prayers?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 431

Described Today



What did Peter tell the people at Mary's house? First, he told them to be silent.

When the angel of God led Peter out of prison, the angel disappeared after they reached the street. Peter then went to the house of Mary and began knocking on the door of the gate. Rhoda came out and answered the door, but when she saw that it was Peter, she left him there and went back inside overjoyed. The people inside the house had been fervently praying for the release of Peter. They did not believe Rhoda when she told him that Peter was at the gate, but said it was his angel. Finally, they went to the door and met Peter.

Peter then motioned with his hand for them to be silent. Then he described to them how the Lord had led him out of prison. He then directed them to report these things to James and the brethren. Peter then left and went to another place. Peter could have left anytime, but he waited until the group answered the door. Peter wanted to get word to James and the

brethren. Because James the brother of John had been murdered by King Herod, the other James appears to be the brother of the Lord.

Report

1. **Motioning**. What did Peter tell the saints? Peter told them how the Lord and let him out a prison.

2. **Hand**. First, Peter motioned with his hand for the group at Mary's house to be silent.

3. **Silent**. They were very excited about seeing Peter standing at the gate, but Peter wanted them to be silent so he could talk to them.

4. **Lord**. Peter relayed to them how the Lord had let him out of the prison, past all the guards.

5. **Lead**. The Lord led him to safety beyond the gate of the prison and out to the street.

6. **Him**. Living holy in the family of God means that God took special care of Peter and let him out of prison and delivered him to the street.

7. **Prison**. We rejoice today because the prayers of the saints were answered and the Lord led Peter out of prison and past all the soldiers. Peter instructed the saints to report the events to James and the brethren. Then Peter left and went to another place.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Lord led Peter out of prison.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praying fervently for God to lead people out of prison and then remembering the great work of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by listening to people when they want to tell us about the great works of God.**

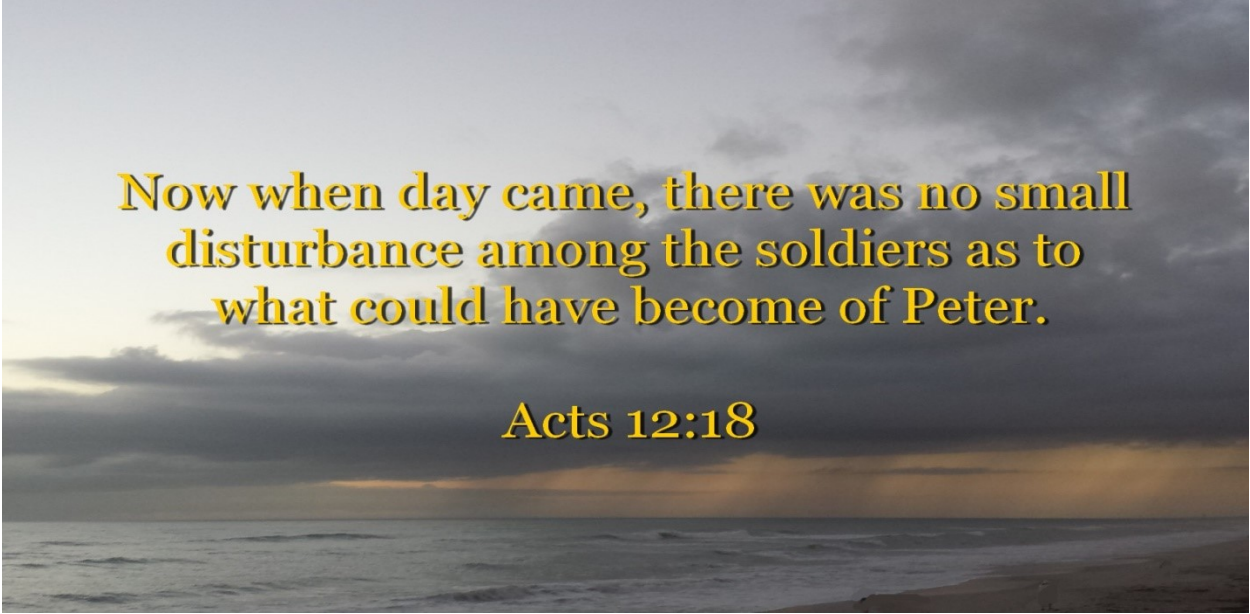
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord for delivering Peter by leading him out of prison. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to listen to people tell you of the great things that God has done in their lives?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 432

Disturbance Today



Now when day came, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers as to what could have become of Peter.

Acts 12:18

What happened when day came? The soldiers were very disturbed as to what happened to Peter.

The Lord had led Peter out of the prison. An angel of the Lord had helped the apostles escape from the same prison previously. Therefore, King Herod took extra precautions to make sure that Peter did not escape from the prison this time. He stationed four squads of soldiers in the prison and more at the gate. He even put Peter in chains with a soldier stationed on each hand. King Herod had made the prison as secure as he knew how to do.

The angel of the Lord had no problem appearing in the cell with a flash of light. Peter's chains fell off and the angel led him out. When they arrived at the prison gate of iron, it opened automatically for them. God has no problem moving Peter past all the guards. God's supernatural abilities allowed him to rescue Peter using His angel.

When day came, the guards were very disturbed. Peter was nowhere to be found and the soldiers could not begin to understand how he could have

escaped. They recognized immediately, however, that King Herod would hold them responsible for the escape of Peter.

Soldiers

1. **Day**. What happened when day came? The soldiers were very disturbed.

2. **Came**. The angel of the Lord led Peter out of the prison at night. Day came and Peter was not in the prison and could not be found.

3. **No**. No small disturbance shook the soldiers.

4. **Small**. The disturbance was not small because the penalty was great for a soldier allowing a prisoner to escape.

5. **Disturbance**. The disturbance among the soldiers signaled how worried they were about Herod finding out Peter was gone.

6. **Soldiers**. Living holy in the family of God means that the soldiers knew they were in trouble because Peter was gone and they had no explanation.

7. **Peter**. We rejoice today because the angel of the Lord led Peter out of prison, but left the guards fearing for their life when they discovered that Peter had left prison.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the guards who had no explanation for Peter's escape.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that people who oppose God and His plans pay a very great penalty sooner or later.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that soldiers have no power to stop an angel on a mission from God.**

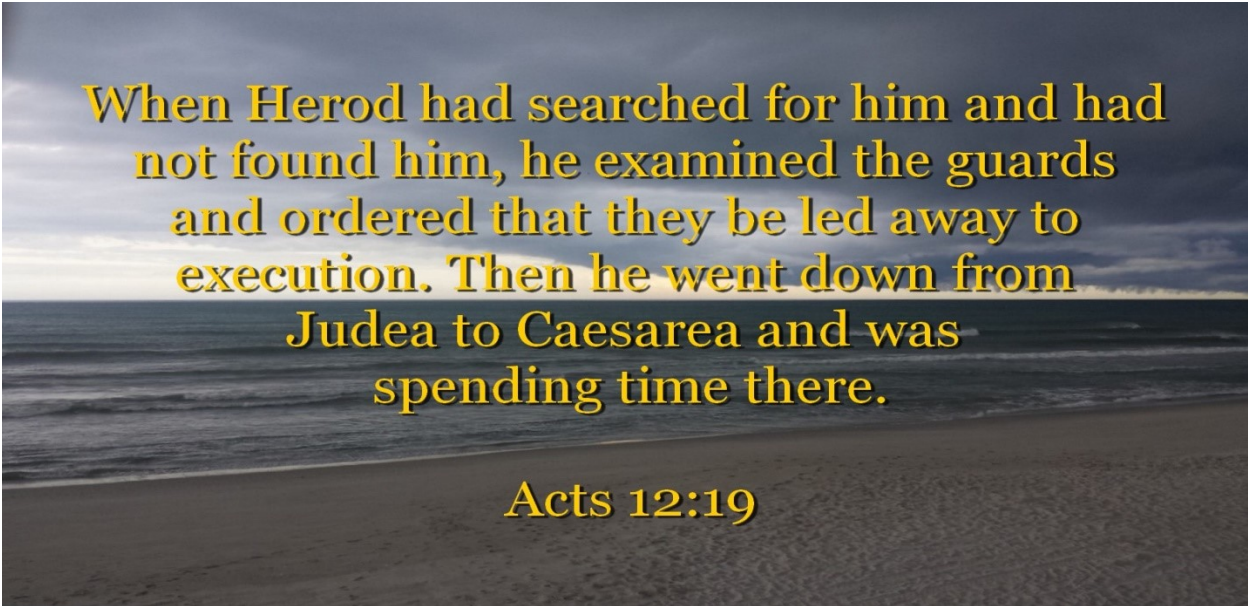
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for delivering Peter from all the soldiers guarding the prison. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that God brings justice sooner or later to soldiers opposing the will of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 433

Herod Today



When Herod had searched for him and had not found him, he examined the guards and ordered that they be led away to execution. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and was spending time there.

Acts 12:19

What happened to the guards? King Herod had them executed.

The angel of the Lord led Peter out of prison. King Herod found out that Peter was no longer in prison. Herod did not know how Peter had escaped, but he knew that he had stationed four squads of soldiers in the prison to be sure that Peter did not escape. Yet, Peter was gone, but the soldiers remained.

King Herod searched the prison and elsewhere looking for Peter. Herod could not find Peter anywhere. Someone would have to take the blame for the loss of the prisoner. Therefore, Herod summoned the guards and examined them carefully regarding the escape of Peter from the prison they were guarding. Having examined them, King Herod had all the guards led away for execution. Herod had killed James with the sword and now all the soldiers guarding Peter were executed by Herod. Nothing the guards could have done could have prevented Peter from leaving that jail that night following the angel.

Herod then went down from Judea to Caesarea. He spent time there by the sea. Herod knew that somehow Peter had escaped and his soldiers lacked any satisfying explanation of what happened that night with Peter.

Execution

1. **When**. What happened when Herod searched for Peter? Herod did not find Peter.

2. **Herod**. When day came, everyone realize that Peter was gone from the prison and Herod took matters into his own hands.

3. **Searched**. Herod searched for Peter.

4. **Him**. When Herod did not find him, Herod shifted his attention to the four squads of soldiers he had placed in the prison to be sure that Peter did not escape.

5. **Examined**. Herod examined the soldiers seeking to understand how Peter could possibly escape with so many soldiers guarding him in a prison.

6. **Guards**. Living holy in the family of God means that the guards could not stop the angel of the Lord from leading Peter out of the prison.

7. **Execution**. We rejoice today because Peter escaped from prison because the Lord sent an angel to deliver him, but what was good for Peter meant death by execution for the soldiers charged with guarding him. While Herod left for Caesarea, the soldiers died and went to Hades.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God's plans bring stiff consequences for people who oppose them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the soldiers paid with their life for being unable to keep Peter in prison when God wanted him out.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for His supreme power that triumphs over prisons and guards and kings.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His infinite power to deliver saints from prison and guards and kings. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His loving power which always leads us to safety sooner or later?

HALLELUJAH !

5

Herod

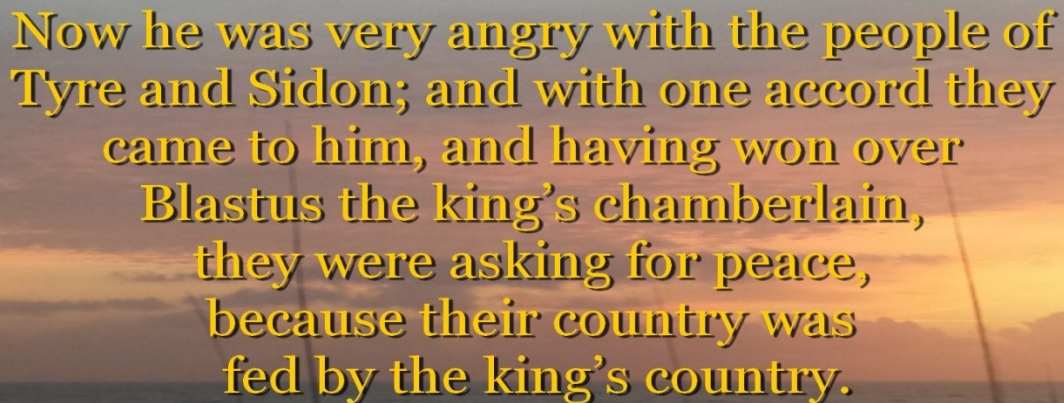
Died Today

Herod was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. Because they relied upon the king for their food, they were asking for peace. On an appointed day, Herod put on his royal apparel and took his seat on the rostrum. As he addressed the crowd, the people kept crying out that it was the voice of a god and not of a man. Immediately an angel of the Lord struck Herod and he did die of worms, because he did not give the glory to God. The word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied. Peter, Barnabas, and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they fulfilled their mission, taking along John Mark back to Antioch.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 434

Angry Today



Now he was very angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon; and with one accord they came to him, and having won over Blastus the king's chamberlain, they were asking for peace, because their country was fed by the king's country.

Acts 12:20

What did the people of Tyre and Sidon want from King Herod? They wanted peace because they depended upon Israel for food.

King Herod was very angry with the people of the cities of Tyre and Sidon. They were wealthy cities on the seacoast north of Israel. God did not tell us why Herod was so angry with Tyre and Sidon, but he must have been in a bad mood after Peter escaped from his prison.

The people of Tyre and Sidon came to King Herod with one accord. Because they depended upon Herod for food, they had to appease his anger. They had won over Blastus, the King's Chamberlain. The people sought peace and were looking for some way to change Herod's mind.

King Herod had proven himself an enemy of God. Herod had murdered James and imprisoned Peter. He sought to curry favor with the Jewish people. He thought that by murdering Peter the Jewish people would be more pleased with him. Like so many other murderers, Herod tended to ignore God. When anyone persecutes the children of Jesus, Jesus always takes that very personally, as if they were persecuting Him directly.

Tyre and Sidon

1. **He**. Who was angry with Tyre and Sidon? Herod was very angry with Tyre and Sidon.
2. **Angry**. Herod was already angry with the soldiers because Peter escaped from the prison, but he was also angry about Tyre and Sidon.
3. **One**. The people of Tyre and Sidon came to Herod with one accord.
4. **Came**. Those people came because they needed to change Herod's mind and appease his anger.
5. **Blastus**. They had already won over Blastus, the chamberlain, the officer charged with managing Herod's house.
6. **Peace**. Living holy in the family of God means that the people of Tyre and Sidon had to make peace with Herod one way or another.
7. **Fed**. We rejoice today because God opens His hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing, giving them food in due time. The people of Tyre and Sidon thought that Herod fed them and so they thought they must appease him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to feed us every day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God gives powers to kings, but He remains the King of kings.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He provides food every day.**

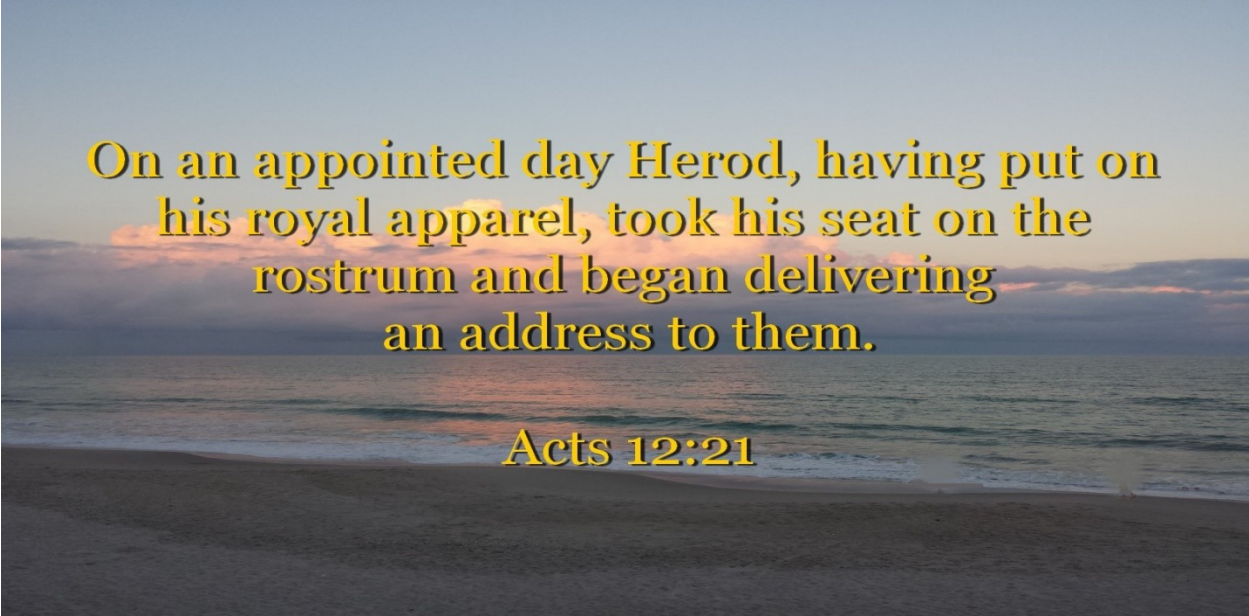
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the anger of Herod and the peace mission of the people of Tyre and Sidon. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping the King of kings who provides our food each day?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 435

Seat Today



On an appointed day Herod, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them.

Acts 12:21

What happened on an appointed day? Herod began delivering an address to the people of Tyre and Sidon.

Herod put on his royal apparel and took his seat on the rostrum. He began delivering an address to the people of Tyre and Sidon. He was displaying himself as the King of Israel. The crowd from Tyre and Sidon were looking for ways to please Herod. They needed the food he supplied to them.

Herod completely misunderstood God. While he was the Jewish king of Israel, and a puppet governor for Rome, Herod had incurred the wrath of God. In fact, the wrath of God abides upon all the sons of disobedience. While Herod had imposed his sense of judgment upon James and the people of Tyre and Sidon, Herod ignored the justice of God and the wrath of God.

Herod also ignored the fact that God had given him the position of King. Herod may have inherited the throne from his father, but God sets up and enthrones kings at His pleasure. By taking the life of James by the sword without cause, Herod had abused his power as king. God always takes note of the people who kill His children.

Rostrum

1. **Appointed**. Why did Herod sit on the rostrum? Herod sat on the rostrum to address the people of Tyre and Sidon.
2. **Herod**. The people of Tyre and Sidon came to make peace with Herod.
3. **Seat**. On the appointed day, Herod took his seat on the rostrum to speak to the people of Tyre and Sidon.
4. **Rostrum**. The rostrum was an elevated platform designed for giving speeches and a place for royalty to sit.
5. **Delivering**. As Herod sat on the rostrum, he was delivering an address.
6. **Address**. Living holy in the family of God means that kings may address their friends and enemies while sitting on a rostrum, but God always looks down upon them and hears every word they utter.
7. **Them**. We rejoice today because God hears every word kings speak and all of them will appear before Jesus. He will pass judgment upon them and they will give an account of every word they spoke.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God to sit in judgment upon every king for every word they spoke.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that kings sit on rostrums on earth, but the Lord Jesus sits at the right hand of the Majesty on High and one day will sit upon the throne of David on earth.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising Jesus for listening when we pray to Him because we have peace with God.**

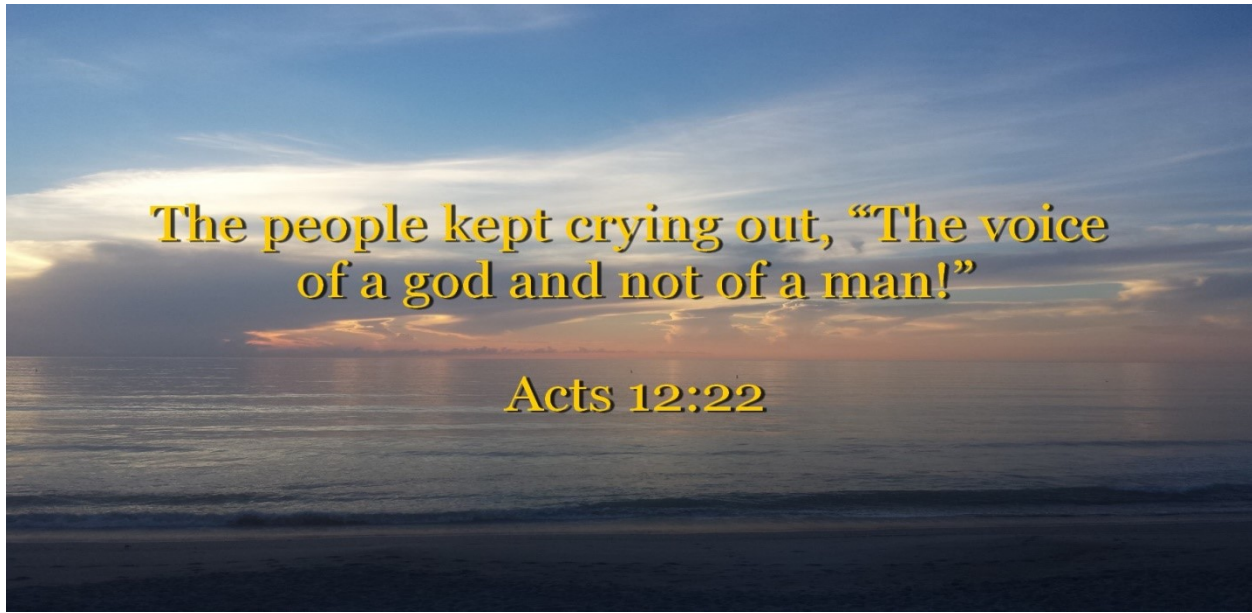
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Herod on the rostrum addressing the people of Tyre and Sidon. Will you live holy in the family of God today by carefully choosing your words, knowing that God hears every one of them?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 436

People Today



What did the people say while Herod talked? The people cried out, “The voice of a god and not of a man!”

The people of Tyre and Sidon depended upon Herod for food. Herod had become very angry with them and their food supply was in danger. Therefore, with one accord they sought to make peace with Herod.

After Peter escaped from prison in Jerusalem, despite Herod’s best efforts to keep him in there with extra soldiers, Herod left for Caesarea. At Caesarea he gave the speech to the people of Tyre and Sidon gathered there. Herod had already suffered a serious setback at Jerusalem with Peter escaping from the jail with the help of an angel of God.

As Herod spoke from the rostrum, the people of Tyre and Sidon saw a way to ingratiate themselves with Herod. They hoped to secure their food supply from Herod. Believing that flattery is by far the quickest and best approach to appease the king and get back into his favor, the crowd began crying out that Herod was a god. The crowd declared that Herod spoke with

the voice of a god and not a man. God declared long ago that He shares His glory with no one.

Voice

1. **People**. What were the people saying about Herod? They claimed that a god was speaking.

2. **Kept**. The people kept crying out, not just once, but repeatedly.

3. **Crying**. They were crying out to win favor with Herod because he was in charge of their food supply. As they cried out claiming they heard the voice of a god, they were actually sealing the death warrant for Herod.

4. **Voice**. The crowd kept crying out that the voice coming from the rostrum was the voice of a god.

5. **God**. By calling Herod a god, the crowd sought to ingratiate themselves with Herod and make peace with him, because he was very angry with Tyre and Sidon.

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know God always takes notice of all things, but some things prompt His immediate action. In this case Herod accepted the worship of the crowd, saying that he spoke with the voice of a god, and not man.

7. **Man**. We rejoice today because God is patient and kind with His children, but when an enemy of God claims to be God and accepts the worship due only to God, then God will punish that man sooner or later.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering to give God the glory in all things.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never accepting the worship of men.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His absolute holiness and righteousness.**

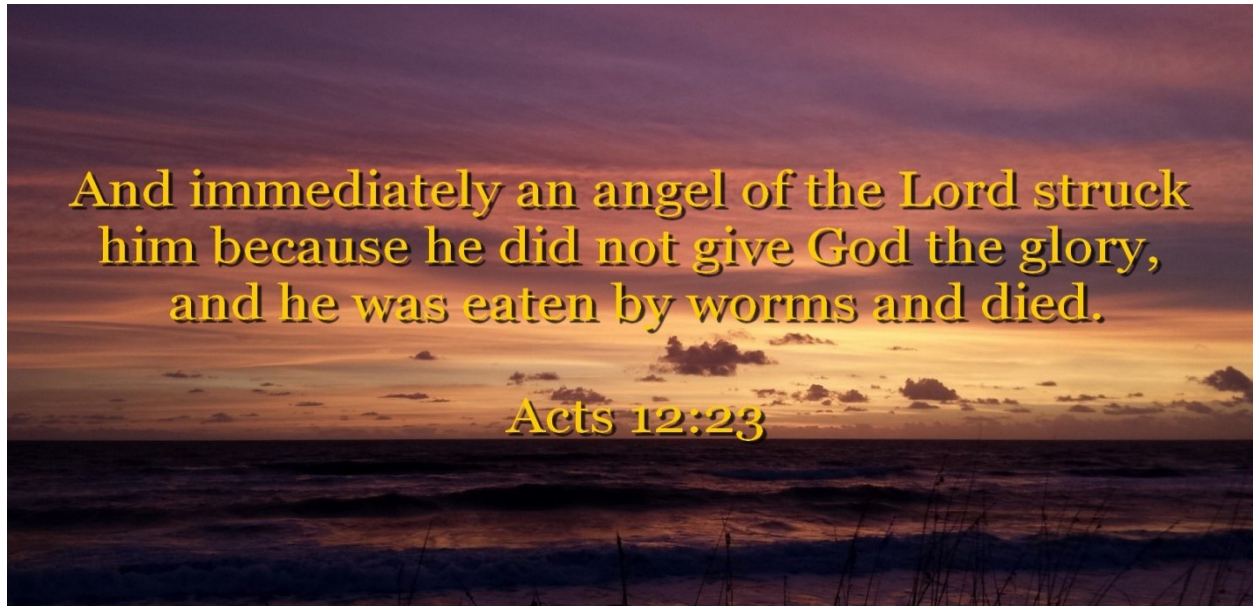
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the holiness and righteousness of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by working out your salvation with fear and trembling?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 437

Struck Today



What happened when Herod did not give God the glory? An angel of the Lord struck Herod immediately.

The people from Tyre and Sidon cried out that Herod was a god and was speaking with the voice of a god. They had strong motives to flatter Herod and gain his favor because they needed his food which he supplied to them.

Herod had killed James and imprisoned Peter, both apostles, and killed the Lord Jesus Christ. Herod held God in contempt, but such foolish action brought swift judgment from God.

When Herod failed to give the glory to God, accepting the words of glory from the crowd, the angel struck Herod immediately. He was eaten by worms and died.

Many kings throughout history thought they were divine in one way or another. Roman emperors often declared themselves divine and demanded worship. Herod must have thought he was worthy of the same kind of

treatment from the people in his kingdom. He was sorely mistaken because God took note and the angel struck Herod for his evil acts.

Died

1. **Immediately**. What killed Herod? Herod's pride killed him.
2. **Angel**. An angel the Lord struck Herod because he accepted the worship of the crowd crying out that he spoke with the voice of a god and not a man.
3. **Struck**. Immediately after Herod received the worship of the people of Tyre and Sidon, an angel struck him.
4. **Him**. The angel struck Herod on the directions of God, Who sets up kings and kingdoms and destroys them at His pleasure.
5. **Not**. Herod did not give the glory to God when the people called him a god. Instead, Herod accepted their worship, although he was just a man.
6. **Glory**. Living holy in the family of God means that God does not share His glory with another and anyone pretending to be a god will be held accountable by the one and only God.
7. **Worms**. We rejoice today because God executed His justice upon Herod so that he was eaten by worms and died.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that all the glory belongs to God, always.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never trying to take glory away from God or accepting glory from others as if we are God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God and giving Him all the glory, which He alone deserves.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Herod eaten by worms for not giving God the glory. Will you live holy in the family of God today by giving God the glory because He alone deserves all glory and majesty and power?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 438

Grow Today



What happened after the death of Herod? The word of the Lord continued to grow and to be multiplied.

Herod's death marked another era of church persecution. From the religious Council arresting Peter and John and then all the apostles and continuing through the murder of Stephen and Saul going house to house dragging away male and female saints to prison, the church continued. As the persecution intensified, the saints fled to various places around the Mediterranean Sea. About the time of the conversion of Saul, after he left Jerusalem for Tarsus, the church enjoyed a time of peace. Then King Herod killed James with a sword and arrested Peter. The mood in Jerusalem among the Jews was anti-Christian.

The church at Antioch in particular began to blossom as certain men from Cyprus and Cyrene began sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Greeks. The Lord richly blessed the ministry at Antioch and Barnabas and Saul became leading figures there, among others. The disciples

were first called Christians at Antioch. While the flames of persecution still burned, the word of the Lord continued to grow and be multiplied.

Multiplied

1. **But**. What did the Lord do after Herod died? The Lord caused His word to prosper.

2. **Word**. Although Herod persecuted the church, the Lord helped the church through the word of the Lord.

3. **Lord**. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the ministry of the word of God strengthened the church after the death of Herod.

4. **Continued**. The Lord Jesus caused the word of God to grow.

5. **Grow**. As the servants of God plant the word of God, God waters the word and causes it to grow, making more disciples and building up disciples.

6. **And**. Living holy in the family of God means that God both grows and multiplies the word of the Lord.

7. **Multiplied**. We rejoice today because God multiplied the word of the Lord so that believers glorified God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the word of the Lord grew and multiplied before, during and after persecution.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for multiplying and growing the word of the Lord.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for using the saints to grow and multiply the word of the Lord.**

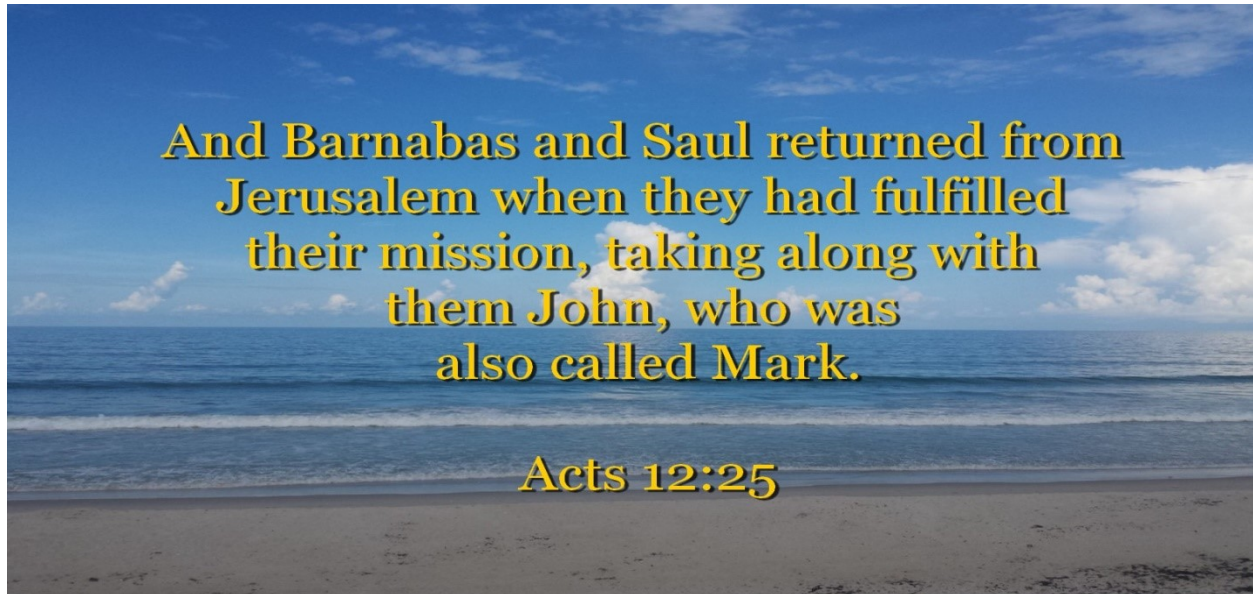
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that the word of the Lord continues to grow and multiply. Will you live holy in the family of God today by watching the word of the Lord grow and multiply in your local assembly?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 439

Fulfilled Today



Why did Barnabas and Saul return to Antioch? They returned after they had fulfilled their mission to Jerusalem, taking the contribution to the saints of Judea for famine relief.

Saul and Barnabas were trusted men of the Church of Antioch. When Agabus came from Jerusalem and prophesied that a famine would sweep the world, the saints at Antioch raised money for famine relief in Judea. The Antioch congregation sent Saul and Barnabas to deliver the money to the saints in Judea. They took John Mark with them.

Saul and Barnabas made a very good ministry team. Barnabas had gone to Tarsus to bring Saul to the work at Antioch more than a year earlier. Together they used their spiritual gifts and the Lord blessed the work at Antioch so that many people believed, especially the Greeks.

As the church flourished in Antioch, young men like John Mark could use their spiritual gifts in that thriving spiritual environment. Saul and Barnabas would do the preaching and teaching. Saints were being discipled

and things there were going very well with the blessing of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mission

1. **Barnabas**. Why did Barnabas and Saul go to Jerusalem? They went to Jerusalem from Antioch to take the contribution for famine relief to the saints in Judea.

2. **Saul**. Barnabas and brought Saul to Antioch where they ministered together for a year before heading to Jerusalem.

3. **Returned**. Having delivered the contribution for famine relief in Jerusalem, they returned to Antioch.

4. **Jerusalem**. The apostles stayed in Jerusalem during the persecution and continued their ministry in Jerusalem and other parts of Israel.

5. **Mission**. When Barnabas and Saul had completed their mission of taking the funds to Jerusalem, they came back with John Mark.

6. **Taking**. Living holy in the family of God means that strong believers take young believers with them to places of great ministry like Antioch.

7. **John**. We rejoice today because John Mark joined the ministry team and came to Antioch with Barnabas and Saul.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering John Mark joining Barnabas and Saul at Antioch.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking time to bring new people onto the ministry team.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by always looking for new disciples to grow in the word of the Lord.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Barnabas and Saul taking John Mark with them. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking a young believer with you on a mission trip?

HALLELUJAH !

6

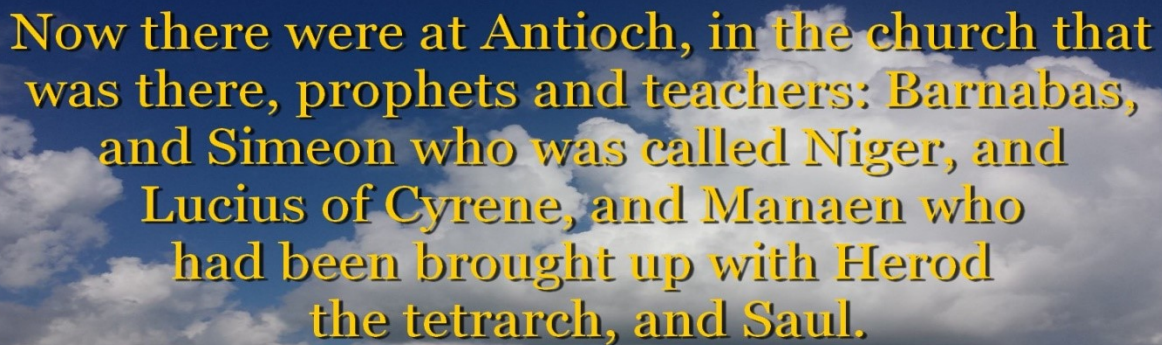
Paul and Barnabas Called Today

Having returned to Antioch, the Holy Spirit called Paul and Barnabas to the work He had prepared for them. The church at Antioch then fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, sending them away. They began their first missionary journey from Antioch.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 440

Church Today



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.

Acts 13:1

Who were some of the leading figures of the church at Antioch? In addition to Saul and Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius and Manaen labored there for the Lord Jesus Christ.

God created ministry teams in various churches. Ministry teams also planted new churches in various places. As the word of God was growing and multiplying, so also God was sending forth workers into the fields that were white for harvest.

Saints from Cyprus and Cyrene began proclaiming the word of God to both Jews and Gentiles at Antioch. Lucius of Cyrene joined with Barnabas of Cyprus and Saul of Tarsus in the work at Antioch. Simeon who was called Niger, and Manaen who was brought up with Herod, all worked together at Antioch. The church at Antioch had a metropolitan flavor to it.

Antioch had many gifted servants working together and the Lord Jesus Christ blessed their ministry. They had come from different places, but were unified as a ministry team proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and making disciples.

Prophets and Teachers

1. **Antioch**. What people were at Antioch? The church at Antioch had a variety of men with different spiritual gifts.

2. **Church**. The church at Antioch flourished under the blessing of God as both Jews and Greeks came into the church by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Prophets**. Prophets like Saul received revelation from God and shared it with the congregation.

4. **Teachers**. Teachers like Saul taught the people about the revelation received from God.

5. **Simeon**. Simeon, also called Niger, was also named by Luke as a saint working at Antioch.

6. **Lucius**. Living holy in the family of God means that Lucius of Cyrene came to Antioch and began proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Greeks there.

7. **Manaen**. We rejoice today because Barnabas, Saul, Manaen who was brought up with Herod, Simeon, and Lucius were known for their work at Antioch.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the men who labored for the Lord Jesus Christ at Antioch.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by spending our lives in the service of the Lord Jesus Christ and being known for our spiritual work.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining ministry teams so that we can work with other gifted believers.**

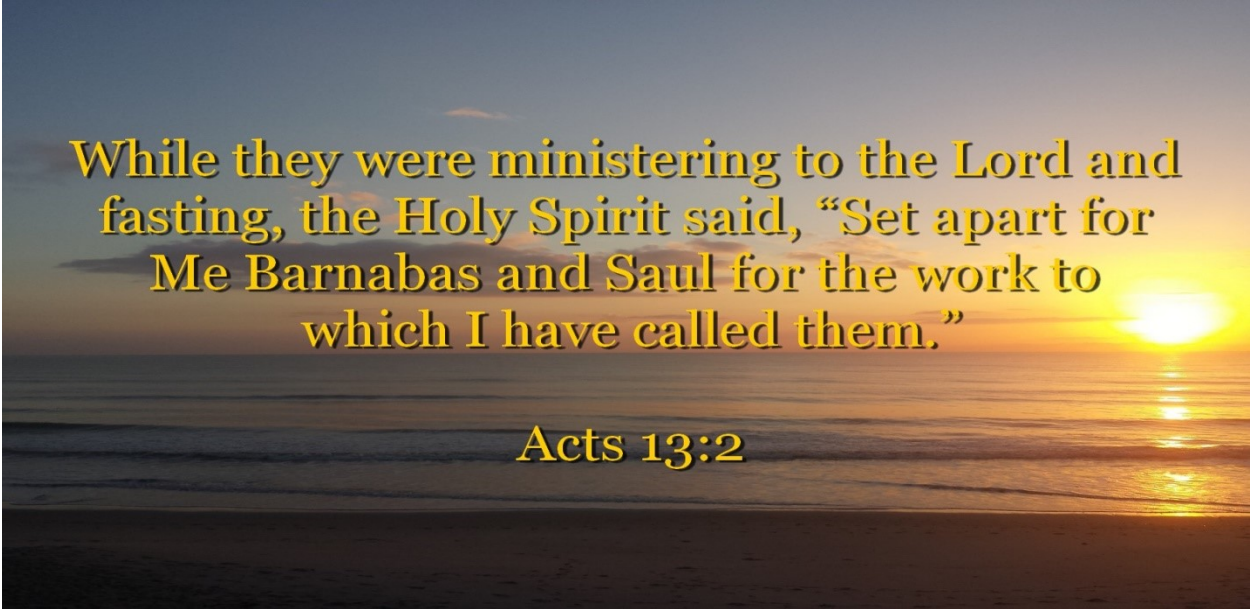
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the people that God calls to His service at a particular place. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the saints you know who work together for the kingdom of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 441

Ministering Today



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.”

Acts 13:2

What men did the Holy Spirit call to a new work? The Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul for a new work.

The ministry at Antioch blossomed as saints shared the word with both Greeks and to Jews. Many people came to Christ as Savior. As the work thrived at Antioch with Barnabas and Saul teaching and preaching, the Holy Spirit delivered a message to the saints.

While the saints were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit spoke about a new work. Specifically, He wanted the saints to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the new work that He called them to do. Both Barnabas and Saul had come to Antioch after others had started the ministry there. Barnabas was from Cyprus originally and Saul from Tarsus. In fact, Barnabas had gone to Tarsus and brought Saul to Antioch for the purpose of ministry. Therefore, they were an experienced ministry team.

When Saul and Barnabas returned from Jerusalem, they brought back John Mark with them as a new member of the ministry team. The Holy Spirit only singled out Barnabas and Saul for the new work. The Holy Spirit

continued to expand the reach of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by sending men out to new fields.

Called

1. **They**. Why did Saul and Barnabas leave Antioch? The Holy Spirit set them apart for the new work He called them to perform.

2. **Ministering**. While the saints were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit spoke to them.

3. **Fasting**. They were also fasting and seeking God's will.

4. **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit gave direct orders to the saints regarding Barnabas and Saul and His plans for them.

5. **Set**. The Holy Spirit commanded the saints to set apart Barnabas and Saul.

6. **Work**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit calls men and women to minister for Him according to the work He has selected for them

7. **Called**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul do the work, just as He continues to call people to the work today.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time to fast and minister to the Lord.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by heeding the call of the Holy Spirit in our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sending out saints called by the Holy Spirit to a new work, just as the Holy Spirit ordered them to do.**

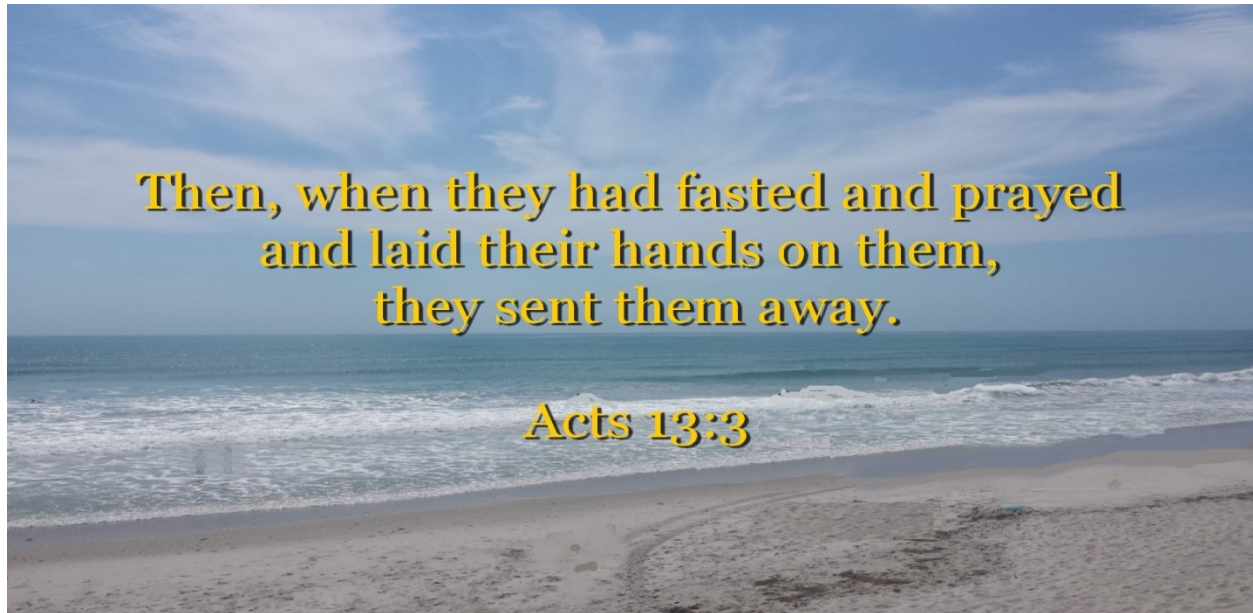
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the call of the Holy Spirit upon the lives of Barnabas and Saul at Antioch. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the call of the Holy Spirit upon your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 442

Fasted Today



What did the saints do with Barnabas and Saul? They finished fasting and praying and then laid their hands on.

The Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul to a new work, away from Antioch. Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus. Saul was from Tarsus, but spent time in Jerusalem persecuting the church there and then moving on to Damascus where he was converted on the road.

Barnabas and Saul had already shown themselves to be faithful servants of God to the apostles in Jerusalem and the saints at Antioch. Barnabas had taken hold of Saul when he escaped from Damascus and introduced him to the saints and apostles in Jerusalem. Those saints were afraid of Saul because of his history of persecuting the church in Judea and dragging people away to prison. Saul even went house to house arresting males and females.

The saints at Antioch sent out Barnabas and Saul with their blessing. The saints at Antioch prayed and fasted. Then they laid hands on Barnabas and Saul, commending them to the ministry of the word in new places.

Prayed

1. **Then**. What happened after the Holy Spirit commanded the saints to set apart Barnabas and Saul? They prepared to send them away immediately.
2. **Fasted**. The saints fasted together, seeking the Lord's will.
3. **Prayed**. The saints prayed together, lifting them to the Lord's Name.
4. **Hands**. The saints laid hands on Barnabas and Saul, commending them to the Lord's service.
5. **They**. The saints as a group at Antioch, composed of Jews and Greeks, obeyed the Holy Spirit and set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work the Holy Spirit called them to do.
6. **Sent**. Living holy in the family of God means that the saints at Antioch sent Barnabas and Saul away to the work the Holy Spirit had set before them.
7. **Them**. We rejoice today because the saints sent them away from Antioch, the place they had called home for more than a year as ministers together to the Jews and Greeks there.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by sending away the people the Holy Spirit has called to ministry elsewhere.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the call of the Holy Spirit upon the lives of the saints we know.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the way the Holy Spirit calls people to His service all over the world.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the saints at Antioch sending Barnabas and Saul away to the work of the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by joining others and sending away saints called by the Holy Spirit to labor for God in distant lands?

HALLELUJAH !

7

Cyprus

Ministry Today

Paul and Barnabas sailed from Antioch to Cyprus, with John Mark as their helper, and proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ on Cyprus. They also performed works of powers and many people came to know Christ as Savior. From Cyprus they headed back to Asia Minor.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 443

Sent Today



Where did Barnabas and Saul go on their first missionary journey together? They went to Cyprus.

Barnabas was a Levite from Cyprus. Therefore, he was returning home to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to his homeland. The Holy Spirit had set Barnabas and Saul apart to spread the word of God to new lands.

Based upon the practice in Antioch, Barnabas and Saul would be proclaiming the gospel to both Jews and Greeks. Peter received the vision about receiving the Gentiles into the church. The church was growing and expanding rapidly with both Jews and Gentiles.

The church proclaims only one gospel to both Jews and Gentiles. The church has only one Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. The church has only one baptism and one faith and one hope. No matter the country or city, the messengers for Christ proclaimed salvation in His Name alone.

Barnabas and Saul knew they were called to proclaim the word of God to new places. They would be traveling to Cyprus first. As they traveled, the hand of the Lord would be upon them.

Sailed

1. **Sent**. Where did the Holy Spirit send Barnabas and Saul? The Holy Spirit sent them to Cyprus.

2. **Holy Spirit**. Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit and with the blessing of the saints at Antioch.

3. **Seleucia**. Seleucia by the sea was a Hellenistic town and the seaport for Antioch. Barnabas and Saul intended to travel by boat.

4. **From**. Barnabas and Saul were leaving Antioch and boarded a boat at Seleucia.

5. **They**. Barnabas and Saul had traveled to Jerusalem before and now they were headed across the Mediterranean Sea to the island of Cyprus.

6. **Sailed**. Living holy in the family of God means that Barnabas and Saul sailed to Cyprus and to the first destination on the trip planned by the Holy Spirit.

7. **Cyprus**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit selected Cyprus, the land where Barnabas the Levite hailed from, so that he was returning home to preach the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Cyprus, the first destination chosen by the Holy Spirit for Barnabas and Saul.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the way the Holy Spirit moves men to travel for Him to distant lands to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending Barnabas home to proclaim the words of eternal life to Cyprus.**

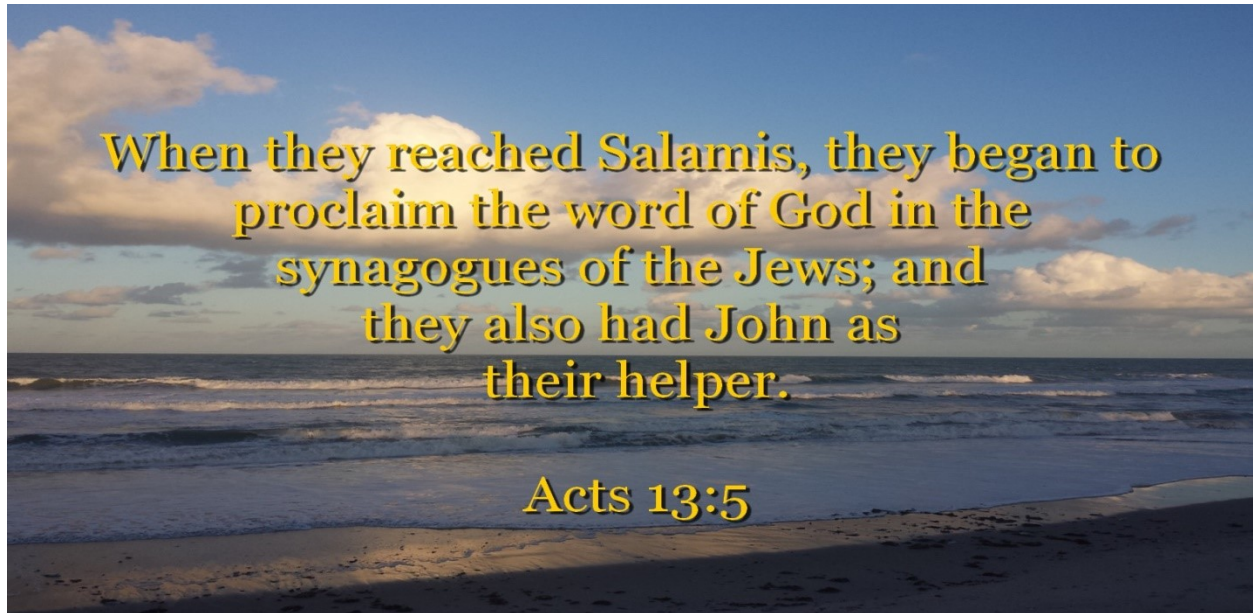
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by obeying the call of the Holy Spirit upon our lives which may involve going home to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by obeying the call of the Holy Spirit upon your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 444

Proclaim Today



What happened when Barnabas and Saul reached Salamis? They began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.

The Holy Spirit had set apart Barnabas and Saul for the new work. The saints at Antioch had fasted and prayed for them and then laid hands upon them, commissioning them for the new work. Antioch would become the base of operations for Barnabas and Saul, where they labored for more than a year together. Many people at Antioch turned to the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Even when the ministry at Antioch was flourishing, the Holy Spirit determined it was time to send out Barnabas and Saul as missionaries to new lands. Their first destination was Cyprus, where Barnabas had grown up as a Levite. Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin and together they went to the synagogues of Salamis and began to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Barnabas and Saul and picked up John Mark and they took him along to Cyprus. Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement, and laid hold of Saul and

brought him into the ministry and together they brought John Mark along with them to Cyprus.

Synagogues

1. **Reached**. What happened when Barnabas and Saul reached Salamis? They began to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Salamis**. Salamis was the seaport on the eastern shore of Cyprus with a nice harbor.

3. **Proclaim**. At Salamis Barnabas and Saul began to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Word**. They came to proclaim the word of God to the Jews first.

5. **Synagogues**. They went to the synagogues of Salamis, spreading the word of God to the Jews first.

6. **John**. Living holy in the family of God means that Barnabas and Saul took John along with them so that he could grow up in the faith, using his spiritual gifts to the glory of God.

7. **Helper**. We rejoice today because John served as a helper to Barnabas and Saul.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the ministry team of Barnabas and Saul and John on Cyprus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by going where the Holy Spirit sends us and bringing along the saints He appoints to the ministry team.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by traveling together and ministering together to the glory of God as one united team.**

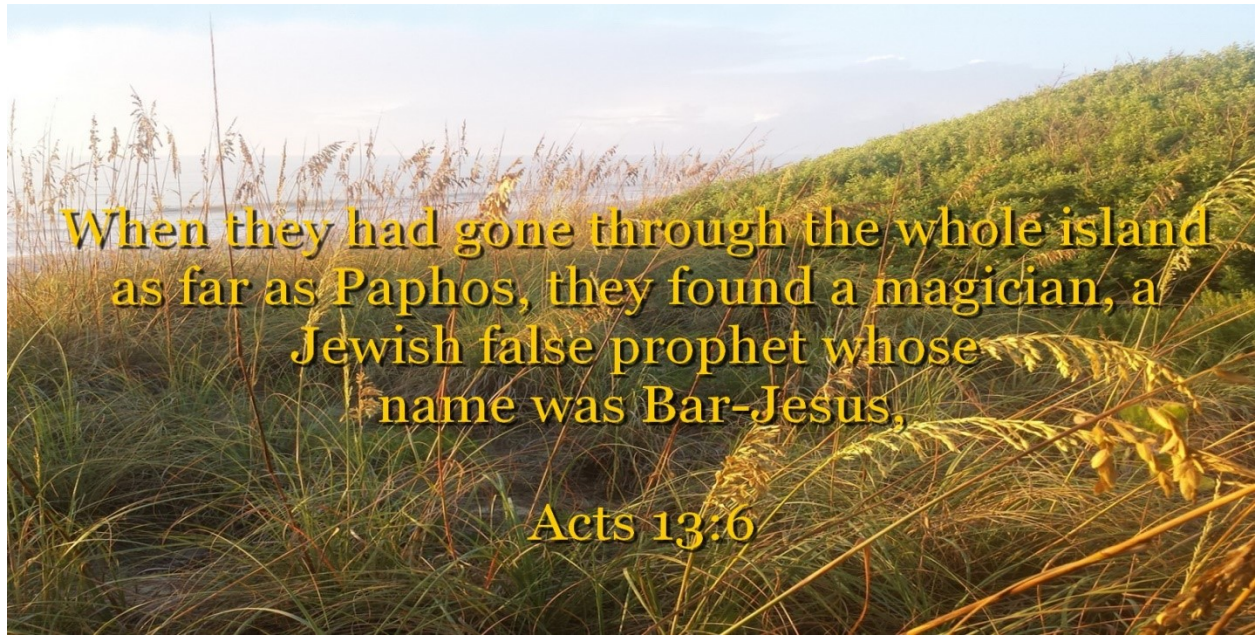
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Barnabas and Saul and John proclaiming the word of God in the synagogues of Salamis. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the word of God today in the place where the Holy Spirit sends you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 445

Magician Today



What happened at Paphos on Salamis? They found Bar-Jesus.

Barnabas, Saul and John Mark returned to Cyprus from Antioch. The Holy Spirit had set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work of traveling to various synagogues and proclaiming Christ to them. So, they left Antioch and went to Cyprus. They started at Salamis and worked their way down the island as far as Paphos.

At Paphos they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. During their travels, Barnabas and Saul spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They normally arrived in a town and went to the synagogue to proclaim Christ there. They went from synagogue to synagogue in place to place spreading the gospel to the Jews first. They came, however, from Antioch where the gospel was proclaimed to both Jews and Greeks. Therefore, both Barnabas and Saul were familiar with Greek evangelism in Antioch where the church was composed of Jews and Greeks.

Barnabas and Saul encountered Bar-Jesus. He was a Jewish false prophet and a magician. Saul had experience with Simon the magician in Samaria. Simon converted to Christ, but sought to purchase the power of laying on of hands.

False Prophet

1. **When**. How far did Barnabas and Saul travel through Cyprus? They went all the way through the island and came to Paphos.
2. **Gone**. Starting in Seleucia, Barnabas and Saul, with John their helper, had gone through most of the island by the time they reached Paphos.
3. **Whole**. They intended to go through the whole island.
4. **Island**. The island of Cyprus was the home area of Barnabas and the Holy Spirit sent him back to proclaim the word of God to his countrymen.
5. **Magician**. They met a man known as a magician on the island.
6. **False Prophet**. Living holy in the family of God means that God sends missionaries to meet false prophets and magicians so that everyone may hear the word of God and learn the difference between men actually sent by the Holy Spirit and pretenders sent by the devil.
7. **Bar-Jesus**. We rejoice today because Barnabas and Saul met the Jewish Bar-Jesus at Paphos, according to the will of the Holy Spirit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Barnabas and Saul and John traveling through the whole island of Cyprus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God sends us to meet all kinds of people, including magicians and false prophets.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming the word of God to all people in all places where the Holy Spirit sends us to proclaim the word of God.**

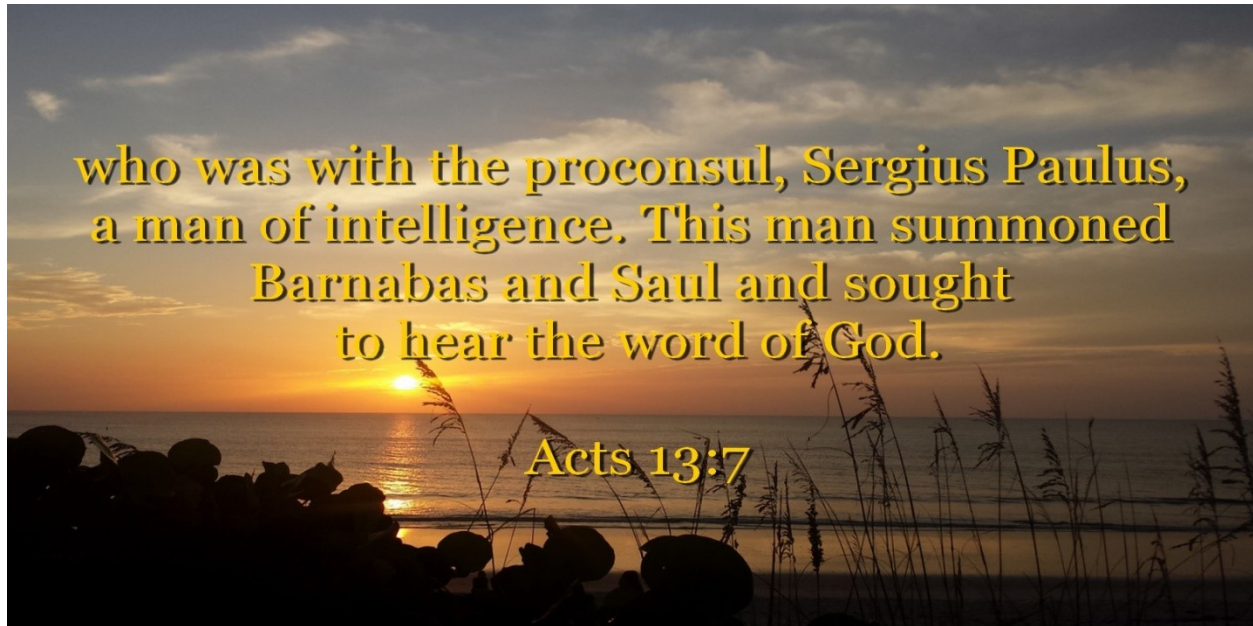
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His plans to reach magicians and false prophets, Jews and Gentiles, spread all over the world. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spreading the love of God by the power of God to all people and all forces opposed to God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 446

Intelligence Today



Who was Sergius Paulus? He was the governor of a province, or a deputy of the consul, the highest political office of the Roman Republic.

When the Roman Empire replaced the Roman Republic about 27 B.C., the consuls' power faded immediately, replaced by the power of the Roman Emperor. Therefore, we know that Sergius Paul was a Roman official on Cyprus, but his exact position and power were not so clear.

Sergius Paulus was a man of intelligence. He held his office using his wits, and Bar-Jesus was with him. Sergius Paulus summoned Barnabas and Saul. He wanted to hear the word of God. So often people who have heard a lot from magicians also want to hear the word of God.

Barnabas and Saul had gained a reputation in Cyprus for proclaiming the word of God. Sergius Paulus summoned Barnabas and Saul, knowing that they would proclaim the word of God to him. Gaining and maintaining a good reputation for God supports the ministry of the word of God. When the words and the actions do not match, trouble follows.

Summoned

1. **Who**. What was Sergius Paulus like? He was a Roman official with intelligence.
2. **With**. Elymas the magician was with Sergius Paulus.
3. **Proconsul**. Sergius Paulus was a proconsul who represented the Roman government.
4. **Sergius Paulus**. Because Sergius Paulus was with Elymas, the two had apparently spent some time together.
5. **Man**. Luke described Sergius Paulus as a man of intelligence.
6. **Summoned**. Living holy in the family of God means that of some intelligent men summon saints so that they may hear the word of God.
7. **Word**. We rejoice today because God sends his messengers to proclaim the word of God to people who seek to hear no matter who they are or what station in life they occupy.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God does not call many wise or intelligent people into the kingdom of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by expecting to meet all kinds of people as we proclaim the word of the Lord.**

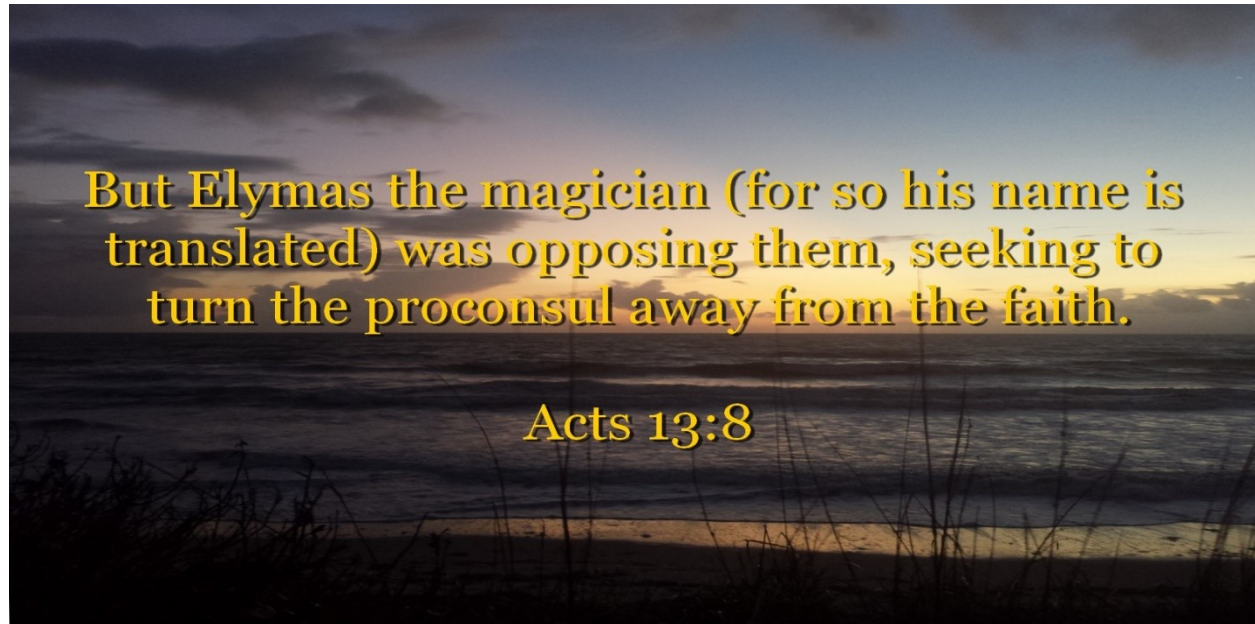
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that some people of intelligence turned to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He is not partial to any when it comes to salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 447

Elymas Today



Who was Elymas? Elymas was also known as Bar-Jesus, for he was a Jewish magician on Cyprus and known to Sergius Paulus.

Elymas opposed the work of Barnabas and Saul. When Barnabas and Saul went preaching through the island of Cyprus, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues. Sergius Paulus wanted to hear the word of God from Barnabas and Saul. He summoned them to proclaim the word to him.

Elymas apparently enjoyed some favor with Sergius Paulus. Like all magicians, they oppose the work of God by the nature of their magic. God condemned all magic in the Old Testament repeatedly. When Sergius Paulus wanted to hear the word of God from Barnabas and Saul, he did so because he was a man of faith in God. Elymas sought to turn Sergius Paulus away from the faith.

Whenever saints proclaim the word of God, evil people will always oppose that proclamation. They will take affirmative action to stop the spread of the word of God. For example, Elymas did not want Sergius Paulus

hearing the word of God. He opposed what Barnabas and Saul were teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Opposing

1. **But**. Who opposed Barnabas and Paul? Elymas the magician opposed Saul and Barnabas.

2. **Elymas**. Elymas, also known as Bar-Jesus, did not like it when Sergius Paulus summoned Saul and Barnabas to hear the word of God.

3. **Magician**. As a magician Elymas used deception and fraud to oppose God and His messengers.

4. **Opposing**. Elymas relied upon his relationship with Sergius Paulus and did not want anybody interfering with that relationship. Therefore, Elymas was opposing Barnabas and Saul.

5. **Seeking**. This Elymas was seeking to turn Sergius Paulus away from God.

6. **Turn**. Living holy in the family of God means that as we proclaim the word of God, opponents will try to turn people away from faith.

7. **Faith**. We rejoice today because God draws people to faith no matter who opposes Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that opponents will always try to hinder people coming to faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that no one can withstand the power of God and the word of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming the word of God even when opposition arises seeking to turn people away from the faith.**

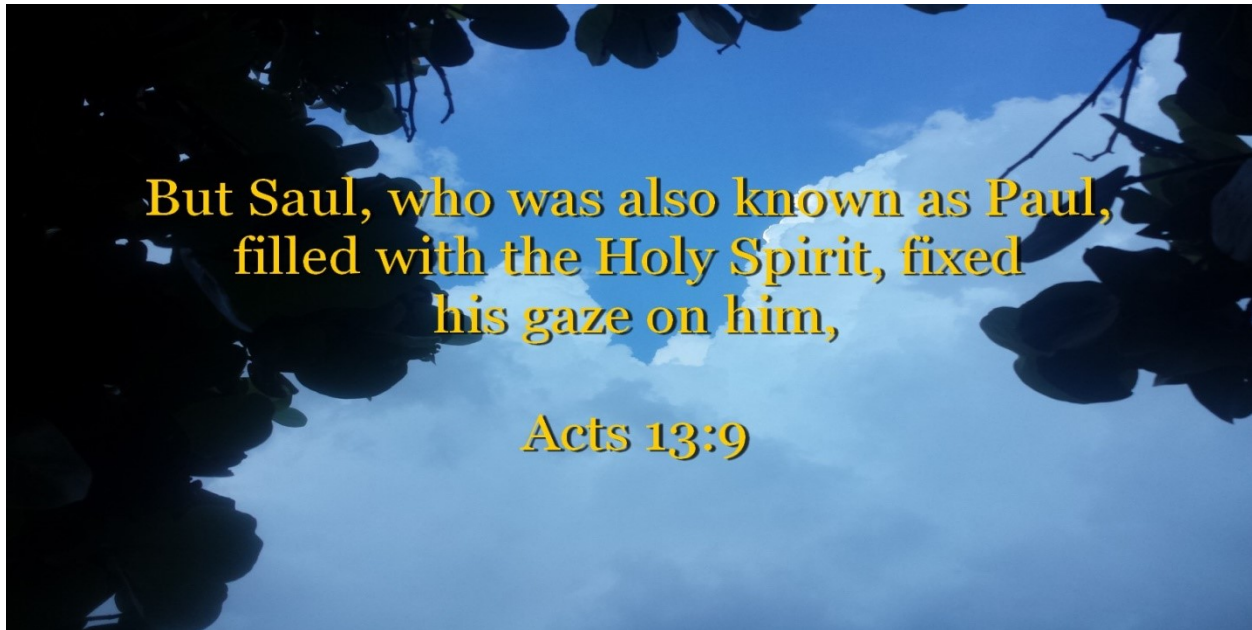
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by counting upon God to overcome opposition against the proclamation of His word. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for your salvation, even though the devil and his minions always strive to hinder the work of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 448

Saul Today



How did Saul respond to Elymas? Saul fixed his gaze on him.

Sergius Paulus, the proconsul, wanted to hear the word of God from Barnabas and Saul. At this point in the Book of Acts, we first read that Saul was also called Paul and that he would become a major figure for the rest of the Book of Acts and wrote many letters in the New Testament.

Barnabas and Saul were going through Cyprus proclaiming the word of God in the synagogues. Sergius Paulus was also an intelligent man of faith. Elymas sought to draw Sergius Paulus away from the faith, while Barnabas and Saul wanted to strengthen his faith by leading him to the Lord Jesus Christ. This same struggle of spiritual powers at work characterized the ministry of Barnabas and Saul. They did not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against powers and principalities and authorities in the heavenly places.

Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit and fixed his gaze on Elymas. The powers of the magician were no powers at all compared to the Holy Spirit. Saul understood the power of the Holy Spirit within him. Saul emphasized

the power of the Holy Spirit Who empowered him and his ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul

1. **But**. What does the term ‘but’ signify? This adversity means that people oppose Saul and the work of God. But Saul also opposed them and their work for the devil.

2. **Saul**. At this point in the Book of Acts we learn that Saul was also known as Paul.

3. **Filled**. Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and ready to oppose the work of Elymas.

4. **Holy Spirit**. The Holy Spirit dominates the Book of Acts and empowers people to proclaim the word of God, even in the midst of stiff opposition.

5. **Fixed**. Paul fixed his gaze upon Elymas. You may recall that Peter fixed his gaze upon the Beautiful Beggar and he was healed.

6. **His**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Holy Spirit caused Paul to fix his gaze upon Elymas.

7. **Gaze**. We rejoice today because as the gaze of Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fell upon Elymas, we know that God will do something about that opposition to Barnabas and Saul proclaiming the word of God to Sergius Paulus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul being full of the Holy Spirit and fixing this gaze upon Elymas.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He has the perfect response to every opponent.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to help us to respond appropriately to every opponent of the word of God.**

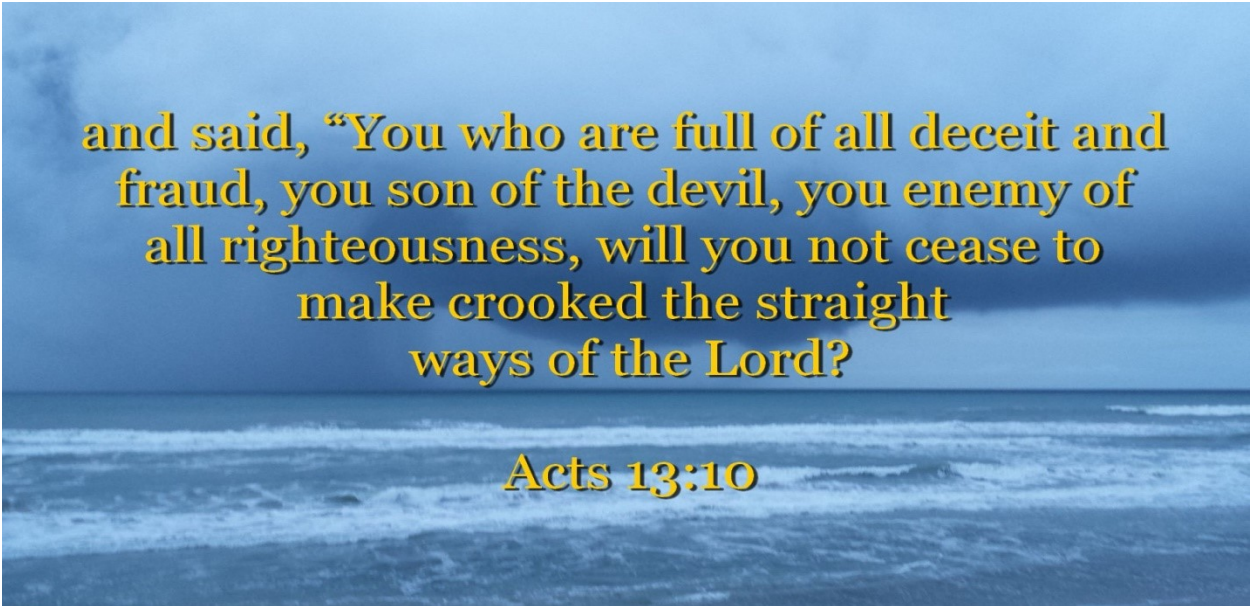
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Holy Spirit leading Paul to fix his gaze upon Elymas. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting the Holy Spirit to lead you as you spread the word of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 449

Deceit Today



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?”

Acts 13:10

What did Paul say about Elymas? Paul declared he was full of deceit and a fraud.

Elymas tried to prevent Sergius Paulus from listening to Barnabas and Paul. Sergius Paulus wanted to hear them so that his faith would be strengthened. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul knew all about Elymas. He understood that Elymas was a fraud and full of all deceit. Elymas was the enemy of all righteousness and son of the devil. Paul did not mince words.

Paul asked Elymas if he would stop making crooked the straight ways of the Lord. Barnabas and Paul spoke the truth and the devil fiercely opposed the truth with many lies, frauds and deceit. Elymas did not want anyone listening to Barnabas and Paul, especially Sergius Paulus. If Elymas lost favor with both the government and the people because he was exposed as a fraud and man of deceit, then his position and livelihood would suffer a great loss.

Paul confronted Elymas in public so that Sergius Paulus and everyone watching would know the truth of what was happening. The Holy Spirit

empowered Paul to proclaim the word of God and withstand and oppose and silence evil men and evil spirits opposed to God and His word.

Enemy

1. **Said**. How did Paul describe Elymas? Paul described him with very graphic spiritual terms.
2. **You**. Paul addressed them directly using the term ‘you’.
3. **Deceit**. Paul said that Elymas was full of all deceit.
4. **Fraud**. Paul also described Elymas as a fraud, meaning that he took advantage of people with deliberate misrepresentations.
5. **Son**. Paul also described him as the son of the devil.
6. **Enemy**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Elymas was the enemy of all righteousness and others follow in his way.
7. **Crooked**. We rejoice today because God overcomes the wicked who try to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Holy Spirit prompted Paul to identify Elymas publicly as a man of deceit and fraud, the son of the devil, and enemy of all righteousness.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by opposing people who try to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by publicly opposing the magicians, fraudsters, deceivers, and sons of the devil and enemies of all righteousness who try to make the straight ways of the Lord crooked.**

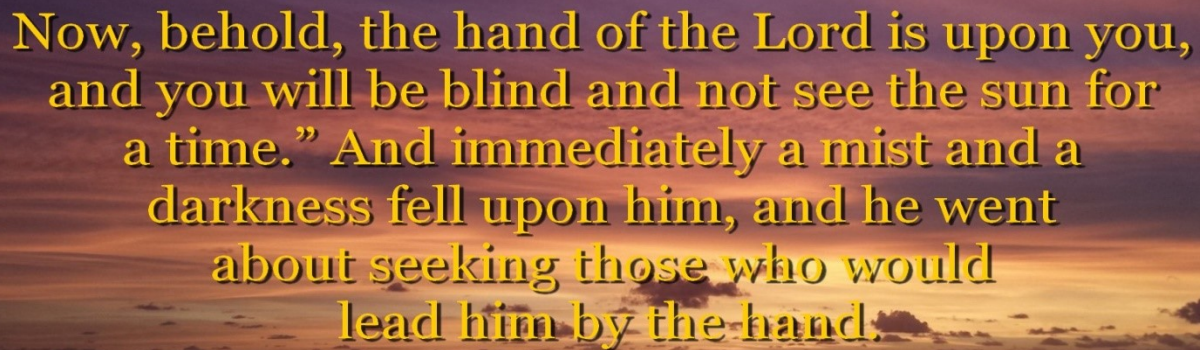
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by confronting the opposition and exposing them for what they are as opponents of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by following the promptings of the Holy Spirit as He calls out the opponents of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 450

Blind Today



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.

Acts 13:11

What did Paul predict would happen to Elymas? Paul predicted he would fall blind.

Elymas tried to prevent Sergius Paulus from hearing the word of God from Barnabas and Paul. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul confronted Elymas in front of everybody. Paul exposed Elymas as a fraud and a person working great deceit. He claimed to be a magician, but actually he was an instrument of the devil. Elymas tried to silence Barnabas and Paul, but the Holy Spirit had called them to the work of sharing the word of God with people on Cyprus.

Paul prophesied that Elymas would lose his sight and not see the sun. Immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon Elymas. He went about seeking who would lead him. Paul had a very similar experience with blindness when Christ confronted him on the Damascus Road. Jesus asked Saul why he was persecuting Jesus. Saul then asked Jesus who He was and Jesus said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.” Saul lost his sight that day on the Damascus Road and had to go into the city of Damascus and meet Ananias

who had laid his hands upon Saul and something like scales fell from his eyes. Having met Jesus on the Damascus Road, Saul saw for the first time in his life.

Darkness

1. **Hand**. What did God do to Elymas? God blinded him for a time.
2. **Blind**. As Elymas opposed Paul and Barnabas proclaiming the word of God, Paul told Elymas that he would become blind for a while.
3. **Sun**. Paul specifically prophesied that Elymas would not see the sun for a time.
4. **Mist**. Immediately a mist fell upon Elymas.
5. **Darkness**. Darkness with the mist fell upon him and he became blind, just as Paul prophesied moments before.
6. **Seeking**. Living holy in the family of God means that Elymas the magician now sought someone to help him with his blindness.
7. **Hand**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit blinded Elymas so that everyone would see the magician blinded by the Holy Spirit so that he would seek someone to lead him by the hand.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Elymas the magician was blinded by the Holy Spirit for opposing the work of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the Holy Spirit showed everyone watching that Elymas was a fraud who needed someone to lead him by the hand.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to show His power so that those with eyes and ears can hear and see the power of the word of God.**

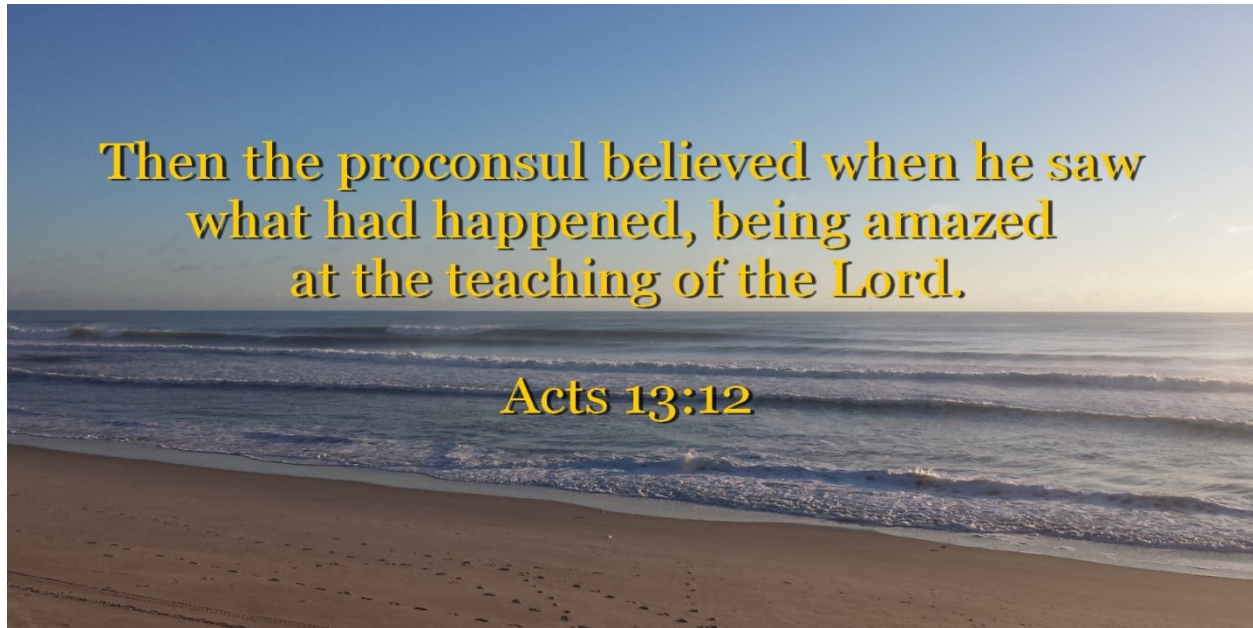
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that we were all blind once and then God made us see Jesus as our Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for reminding us of the infinite power of the Holy Spirit to prevent people from making crooked the straight ways of the Lord?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 451

Believed Today



What amazed the proconsul? The teaching of the Lord amazed the proconsul.

Paul fixed his gaze on Elymas and a mist descended upon him and he became blind for a time. Even so, the teaching of the Lord by Barnabas and Paul amazed the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Elymas was intent upon keeping the proconsul away from the Lord.

When Elymas became blind because Paul confronted him, Sergius Paulus knew that the Holy Spirit was the real power at work. The Holy Spirit had overpowered the magic of Elymas and exposed him as a fraud.

Often the Lord provided signs in the New Testament to confirm the message and authority of His apostles and evangelists. When the Lord granted that signs and wonders be done through Peter in Jerusalem, sick people came from all over just to have his shadow fall upon them and they would be healed.

Paul and Barnabas traveled to the island of Cyprus and God granted a great sign to be performed through Paul confronting Elymas. Sergius Paulus saw everything and heard everything and turned to the Lord.

Teaching

1. **Proconsul**. What amazed Sergius Paulus? The proconsul was amazed by the blinding of Elymas the magician and the word of the Lord spoken by Barnabas and Paul.

2. **Believed**. Sergius Paulus believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, even though Elymas tried to prevent him from hearing the word of God.

3. **Saw**. Sergius Paulus also saw Paul confront Elymas and the Holy Spirit sent a mist and blinded Elymas demonstrating the power of God over frauds and deceivers like Elymas the magician.

4. **Happened**. The proconsul saw everything that had happened because Paul and Barnabas had come to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Amazed**. He was amazed by what he saw and heard.

6. **Teaching**. Living holy in the family of God means that when the messengers of God proclaim the word of God and teach the word of God, people are amazed and turn to the Lord for salvation.

7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because Sergius Paulus, the proconsul, heard the word of the Lord and turned to Him for salvation because the Holy Spirit had sent Paul and Barnabas to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ on Cyprus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Sergius Paulus being amazed by all that he saw and heard and turning in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting the Holy Spirit to open hearts to receive the Lord Jesus Christ after they hear the word of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by going where the Holy Spirit sends us so that we may share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people prepared by the Holy Spirit.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by speaking the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to men in positions of authority because God is no respecter of persons. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to people in authority?

HALLELUJAH !

8

New Asian Ministry Begins

Where did Paul and Barnabas go after leaving Cyprus? Paul and Barnabas sailed from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John left them and returned to Jerusalem. The new Asian Ministry had begun in earnest on this first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas.

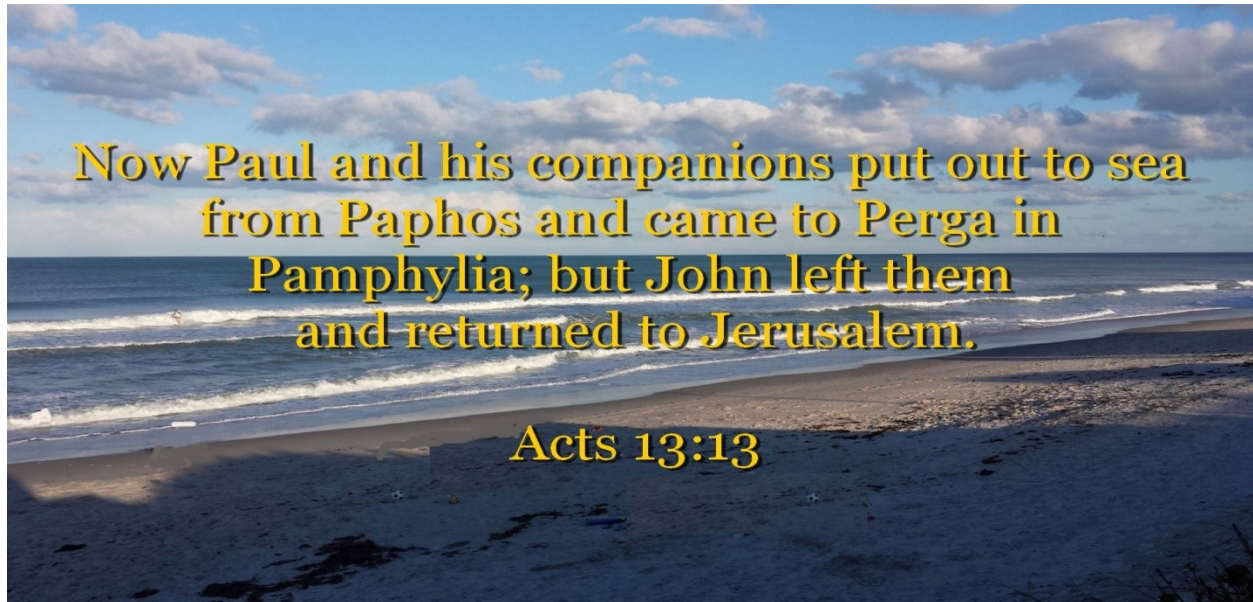
They left Perga and arrived at Pisidian Antioch where they went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. The synagogue officials invited them to speak and they proclaimed Jesus to them, starting with the captivity in Egypt and finishing with the Ministry of John the Baptist.

Paul indicted the people in Jerusalem for killing Jesus the Messiah, even though they found no legal ground for His execution. God raised Jesus from the dead. Paul proclaimed the forgiveness of sins in Jesus of Nazareth as Savior to all the people gathered there. The people in the synagogue begged Paul and Barnabas to come back the next Sabbath, with many of the God-fearing proselytes and Jews following Paul and Barnabas, who urged them to continue in the grace of God.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 452

Companions Today



Where did Paul and his companions go when they left the island of Cyprus? They went to Pamphylia.

Paul and Barnabas went preaching through Cyprus. They started on the western part of the island at Salamis and then moved to the eastern end at Paphos. They ministered to the native population going from synagogue to synagogue. They also met Sergius Paulus and Elymas the magician. When Paul confronted Elymas, the Holy Spirit caused him to go blind. The power of the Holy Spirit causing the blindness to fall upon Elymas and the messages from Paul and Barnabas turned Sergius Paulus to the Lord. The time had come for Paul and Barnabas to move on.

Paul and Barnabas sailed from Paphos to Perga of Pamphylia, a distance of about 175 miles. They had already traveled about 100 miles from Salamis to Paphos. They were headed to the modern area of Asia Minor.

Back in Antioch the Holy Spirit had commanded the congregation to set apart Barnabas and Paul for the work He had called them to. That work included going first to Cyprus and then to the synagogue in what we would

call Asia Minor. As they left for Perga, John Mark left the group and returned to Jerusalem.

John Left

1. **Paul**. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after they left Cyprus? They went to the city Perga in Asia Minor on the seacoast.

2. **Companions**. Paul had unnamed traveling companions in addition to Barnabas and John Mark.

3. **Sea**. Traveling in the New Testament world often involved sailing around the Mediterranean Sea. In this case leaving the island of Cyprus required a boat to get back to the mainland.

4. **Perga**. Perga lies in the area we know is Asia Minor.

5. **Pamphylia**. Pamphylia was a region of the area under Roman control in Asia Minor.

6. **John**. Living holy in the family of God means that John Mark left Paul and Barnabas to go back to Jerusalem.

7. **Jerusalem**. We rejoice today because both Barnabas and Paul formed a great ministry team and had been to Jerusalem where they picked up John Mark and brought him to Antioch. When Paul and Barnabas left Antioch to go to Cyprus, they took John Mark with them. For an undisclosed reason, John Mark did not go Asia Minor with them, and returned to Jerusalem.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by traveling to new places to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that some members of the ministry team will go home.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by pressing on with a mission even when some team members quit and go home.**

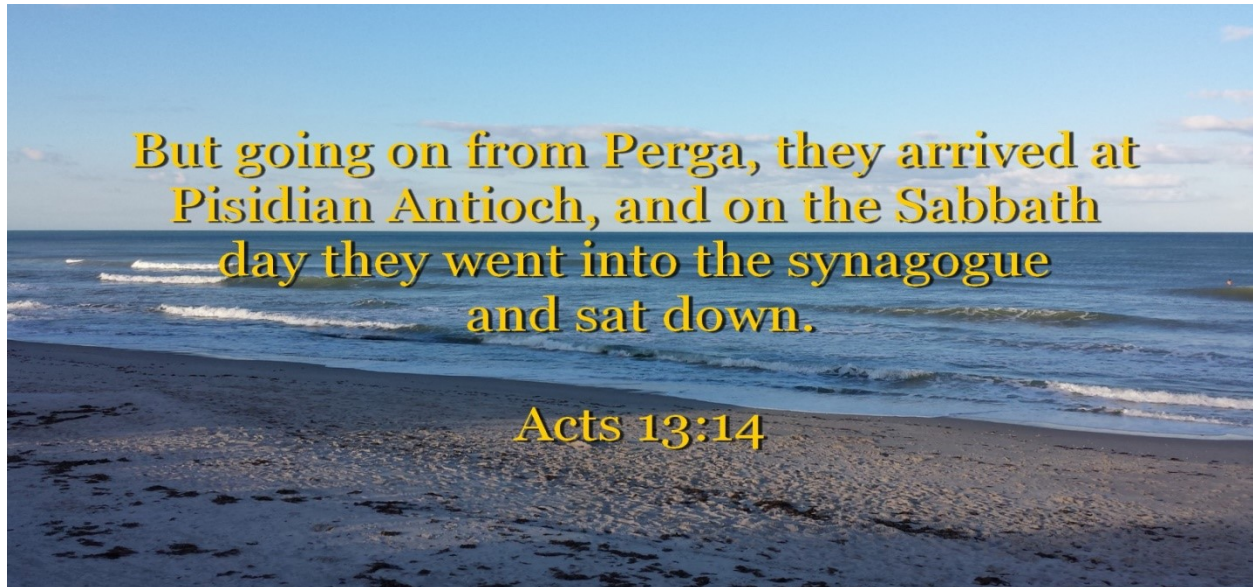
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by pressing on with a mission that God gave us in spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that some people will drop off the ministry team for various reasons?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 453

Sabbath Today



Where did Paul and Barnabas go after Perga? They went on to Pisidian Antioch, about 100 miles past Perga.

Paul and Barnabas traveled extensively. They had a habit of entering new towns and going to the synagogues. They proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews first. When Paul and Barnabas entered the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch on the Sabbath day, they sat down. Notice the humility of taking their seat like anyone else.

Paul and Barnabas set a great example of missionary work and travel. They depended upon the Lord Jesus Christ to supply their needs and provide their words. At times the Lord Jesus worked signs to benefit the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The ministry of spreading the word of God to the Jews scattered through Asia Minor occupied Paul and Barnabas for years. On this first trip, Paul and Barnabas were planting churches and seeing people turn to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Paul generally aimed to go to places where the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and not been preached previously.

Synagogue

1. **Perga**. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after they left Cyprus? They went to Perga, but went on through to Pisidian Antioch, about 100 miles further.

2. **Pisidian Antioch**. The city of Antioch would be a place of important ministry for Paul and Barnabas.

3. **Sabbath**. As was their habit, Paul and Barnabas went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day so that they could spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews first.

4. **Day**. Paul and Barnabas took time on the Sabbath day to go into synagogues and talk with people about the Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Synagogue**. A synagogue was a local place where Jews gathered together and some God-fearers joined them.

6. **Sat**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas went into the synagogue and sat down in the Sabbath day in a room filled with Jews and some pious Gentiles committed to following the Law of Moses.

7. **Down**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas sat down in the synagogue ready to speak to the Jews when the time came.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by talking to unbelievers where they gather together.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking a seat sitting down among unbelievers who may be very religious.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by going to new places as a ministry team, even religious places where God might open the door for us to give a word of exhortation.**

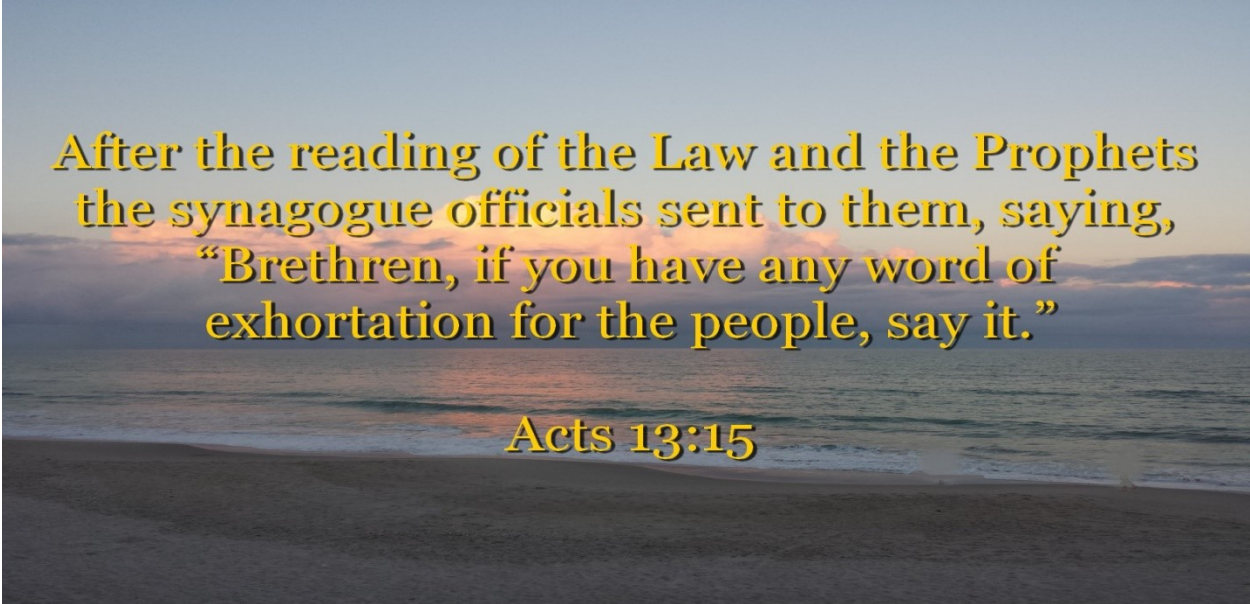
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by going in pairs to new venues for sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Paul and Barnabas went to the synagogue and sat down?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 454

Reading Today



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.”

Acts 13:15

What happened at the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch? The Jews invited Paul and Barnabas to offer any words of encouragement they had to speak.

Paul and Barnabas went through the island of Cyprus spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They went from synagogue to synagogue and met many people. Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence and a Roman proconsul, turned to the Lord after seeing the Holy Spirit blind the magician and hearing the proclamation of the word by Barnabas and Paul.

After leaving Cypress, Paul and Barnabas went to Perga and traveled on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. Customarily the Jews read portions from the Law and the Prophets when they met in the synagogue on the Sabbath day. You may recall that Jesus read in the synagogue of Nazareth from the prophet Isaiah. He proclaimed that the messianic prophecy in Isaiah 61 was fulfilled that day in their hearing.

Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews first. Therefore, they went to the synagogues first, before they proclaimed the gospel to others.

Exhortation

1. **After**. What happened after Paul and Barnabas sat down in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch? God opened the door for them to speak in the synagogue.

2. **Reading**. Paul and Barnabas sat through the reading of the Law in the synagogue.

3. **Law**. Reading the Law was part of the normal service at the synagogue.

4. **Prophets**. Likewise, a portion from the Prophets was also read in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

5. **Officials**. After the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue officials sent word to Paul and Barnabas.

6. **Brethren**. Living holy in the family of God means that God opens doors for His messengers to speak to various groups. In this case, the synagogue officials called Paul and Barnabas brethren.

7. **Exhortation**. We rejoice today because God opened the door for Paul and Barnabas to give a word of exhortation to the entire congregation in the synagogue.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by trusting God to open doors and provide opportunities for us to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking time to sit quietly and listen to the reading of Scripture.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to open ways for His servants to exhort others to come to Christ and receive the free gift of eternal life by faith.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by exhorting the brethren to come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking up for Jesus in very religious services where they do not know Jesus Christ as Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 455

Fear Today



Who did Paul address in the synagogue? Paul addressed the people of Israel and the men who fear God.

The "God-fearers" comprised part of the congregation of Jews in the synagogue. The Hellenistic Jews gathered in synagogues spread around the Mediterranean world. Some Gentiles thoroughly committed to following the Law gathered with them in the synagogues and they were known as the "God fearers." They were Gentile proselytes committed to Judaism.

Paul brought the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the synagogue and he rose by invitation. They asked him if he had any word of exhortation to speak to them. Paul loved exhorting people to know Christ and receive him as the Messiah of Israel and Savior of the world by faith. Saving faith alone led people to salvation and eternal life provided by the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

Jesus came to His own, the Jews. His own did not receive Him. Yet, a few Jews did receive Jesus and He gave eternal life to those who believed in Him.

Listen

1. **Paul**. Why did Paul stand up in the synagogue? Paul stood up because the synagogue officials invited him to give a word of exhortation to the congregation.
2. **Stood**. Paul stood up in the congregation and caught the attention of the group.
3. **Motioning**. Paul motioned with his hand and began speaking.
4. **Hand**. Paul used his hand to capture the attention of the congregation in the synagogue.
5. **Men**. Paul addressed two groups, Jews and Gentiles. He first addressed the men of Israel, indicating they were Jews. The Hellenistic Jews gathered in synagogues in Pisidian Antioch and in other places in Asia Minor.
6. **Israel**. Living holy in the family of God means that God always had a special relationship with Israel and its people, although they repeatedly rejected Him as God their Savior.
7. **Fear**. We rejoice today because the God-fearers often joined Hellenistic Jews in the synagogues, provided they maintained their commitment the following the Law of Moses.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by standing up for Jesus in whatever place He may call you to speak for him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by standing up for Jesus before both Jews and Gentiles as God provides opportunities.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God loves Jews and Gentiles and sends us as messengers of His great love to both of them.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by standing up and speaking up for Jesus when the time comes. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking to groups about Jesus as God provides invitations for you to speak to them about Him?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 456

Israel Today



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.

Acts 13:17

What did Paul preach in the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch? Paul recounted the history of Israel.

As Paul stood up and brought a word of exhortation in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch, Paul began with the people of Israel in captivity in Egypt. Paul recounted how God chose our fathers and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt. With an uplifted arm, God led them out of Egypt.

Paul was educated under Gamaliel and the Pharisees before he turned to Christ for salvation on the Damascus Road. Paul knew Jewish history inside and out. Paul sought to proclaim Christ to the people in the synagogue, but he tied the appearance of Christ with the Old Testament prophecies in the history of Israel. Paul was speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit and we are truly blessed to have his words recorded in Scripture. They form a model for talking with Jewish people today.

Paul started with the fathers of Israel and God choosing them while they were in Egypt. God had chosen Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to be the

patriarchs of Israel. Then Jacob had twelve sons and they became patriarchs for each tribe of Israel. Paul was building his case starting with God choosing the fathers of Israel and making them a great people.

Chose

1. **God**. How did God choose Israel? God chose the fathers of the Jews in the synagogue to be His own people.

2. **Israel**. The God of the people of Israel chose the fathers to be His people.

3. **Chose**. God chose the fathers, they did not choose Him.

4. **Fathers**. Many of the Jews during Paul's time had a rosy picture of their fathers, but the Scriptures do not bear out that impression.

5. **Great**. God acted with great power in delivering His people from the land of where He had made them great.

6. **Arm**. Living holy in the family of God means that God used an uplifted arm to defeat the armies of Pharaoh and led His people out of bondage in Egypt.

7. **Led**. We rejoice today because God led the people of Israel out of Egypt into the Promised Land, but their unfaithfulness to God prolonged the journey through the wilderness.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God chose the fathers of Israel to be His people.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His enormous patience with the people of Israel as they disobeyed Him repeatedly.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for being a kind, patient God, Who always keeps His promises.**

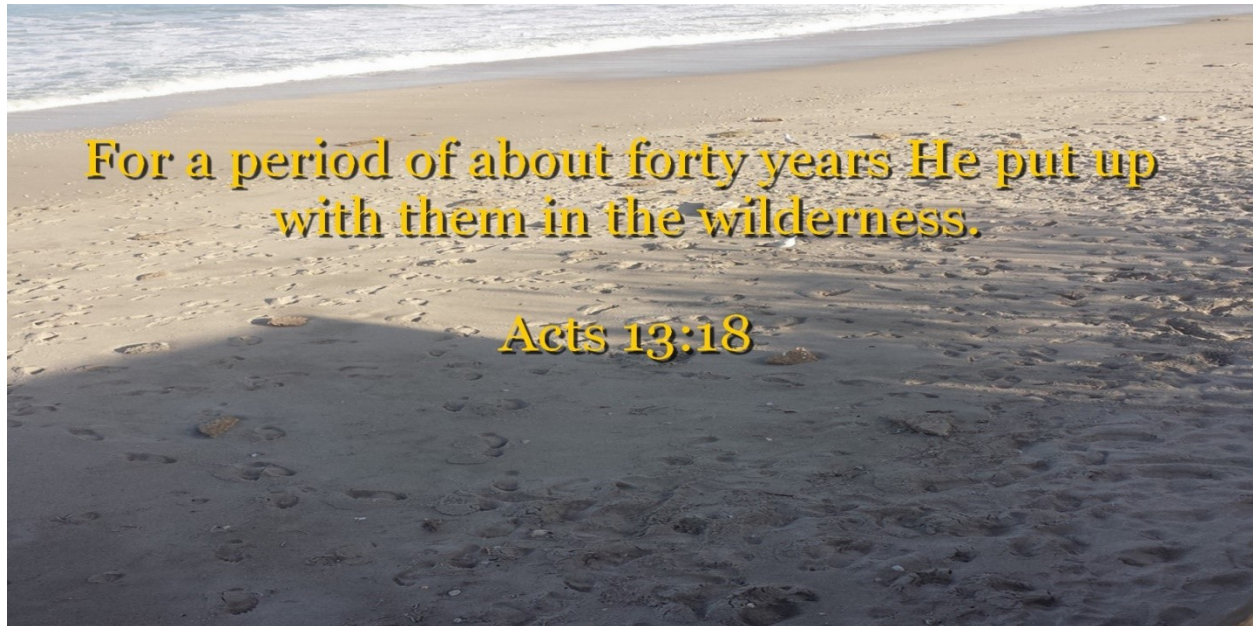
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His love and compassion for disobedient people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the many, many times He has forgiven you?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 457

Forty Years Today



What happened after the people left Egypt? God put up with them for forty years in the wilderness.

Paul did not glorify the people of Israel with his message. He followed the Old Testament narrative of Israel. The people of Israel were a rebellious group always opposed to God and His ways. They spent forty years in the wilderness because of unbelief in God and His ways. God made a covenant with them through Moses at the beginning of those forty years and they promptly broke the covenant. They even wanted to go back to Egypt and slavery.

As Paul recounted the history of the people of Israel, the people hearing him in the synagogue already knew from his first words that Paul was not going to extol the virtues of their forefathers. Paul had intended to show them how their forefathers were sinful and needed a Savior. The only Savior was Jesus of Nazareth, risen from the dead.

As Paul proclaimed the message about the sin of the forefathers, the audience would feel an increasing animosity towards him and God, if they were not saints. Even so, Paul proclaimed Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ and the only Savior.

Wilderness

1. **Period**. What did God do with the people in the wilderness? God put up with the people in the wilderness.

2. **Forty**. Because the people of Israel disobeyed God repeatedly, they spent forty years wandering in the wilderness.

3. **He**. God did not abandon the people of Israel as they wandered through the wilderness.

4. **Put up**. God put up with their wicked ways and did not destroy them.

5. **With**. God was with the people of Israel as they traveled through the wilderness, making His presence visible to them by day and night.

6. **Them**. Living holy in the family of God means that God kept faith with the people of Israel in the wilderness, even when they abandoned their faith in God.

7. **Wilderness**. We rejoice today because God sustained the nation of Israel through the wilderness, though the generation that disobeyed Him died in that wilderness.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God put up with the nation of Israel for forty years in the wilderness.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His compassion in not destroying the entire nation for their disobedience.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His daily kindness and mercy in our lives too.**

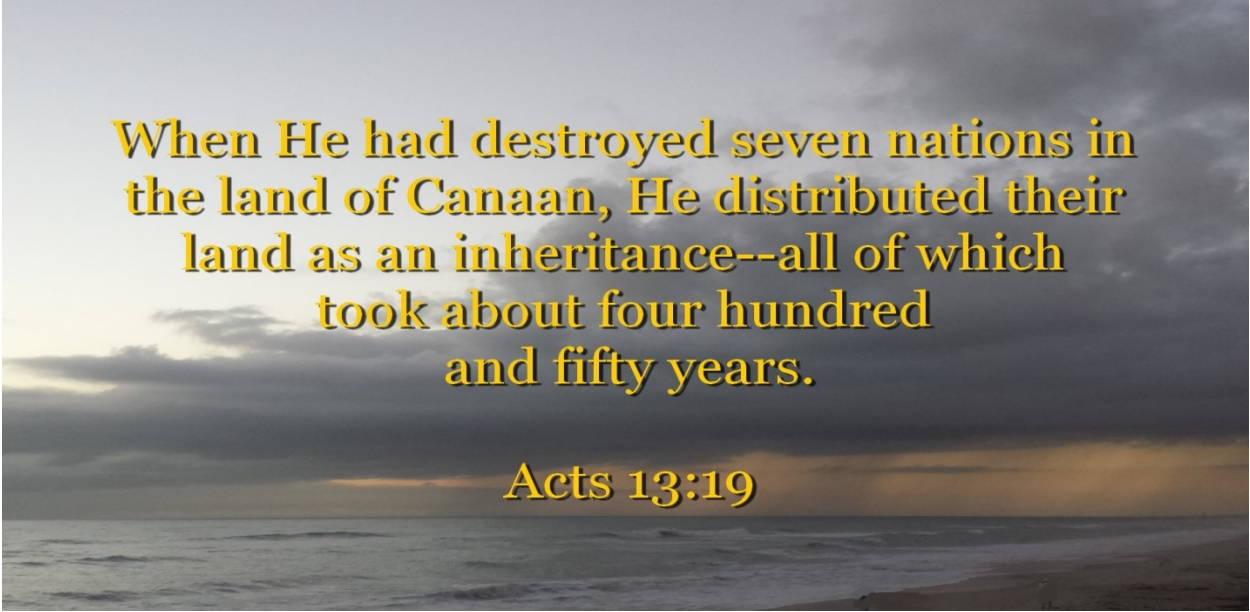
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God put up with the people of Israel for forty years in the wilderness. Will you live holy in the family of God today by loving God with all your heart and then thanking Him that He puts up with sinners every day?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 458

Destroyed Today



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.

Acts 13:19

What took about four hundred and fifty years? It took about four hundred and fifty years for God to destroy the seven nations in the land of Canaan and distribute that land as an inheritance to the people of Israel.

As a Jew, Paul loved Jewish history. Paul could summarize four hundred and fifty years of history with just a few words. The Holy Spirit moved inside of Paul to help him speak words of salvation to the congregation in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch. Paul aimed to preach Jesus of Nazareth to them as the Savior. Paul would show from the Scriptures that He was the Christ.

Paul wove his narrative about Jesus of Nazareth beginning with the people in the land of Egypt and continuing through the conquest of the seven nations. God provided for the people in the wilderness and God distributed the land of seven nations to His people. Paul traveled to that city to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them.

Paul did not start his exhortation with a broad statement about Jesus Christ as Savior. Instead, he meticulously went through the history of Israel,

the forefathers of the Jews in the congregation. Paul did not want to jump to the conclusion about Jesus without first laying the evidence out clearly from the Old Testament.

Seven Nations

1. **Destroyed**. What did God do to the seven nations in the land of Canaan? God destroyed all of them.
2. **Seven**. The seven nations were the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites (Deuteronomy 7:1).
3. **Nations**. God had declared that He would give the land to His people after destroying the inhabitants.
4. **Distributed**. God intended to distribute that land among the twelve tribes of Israel.
5. **Inheritance**. God gave Israel an inheritance in the land.
6. **450**. Living holy in the family of God means it took about four hundred fifty years for the people of Israel to possess the land of Canaan.
7. **Years**. We rejoice today because God takes care with His plans which may take centuries, millennia and eternity to fulfill.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering God destroying seven nations.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God destroyed those nations so that the people of Israel would have a land for themselves.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His plans that span centuries and longer.**

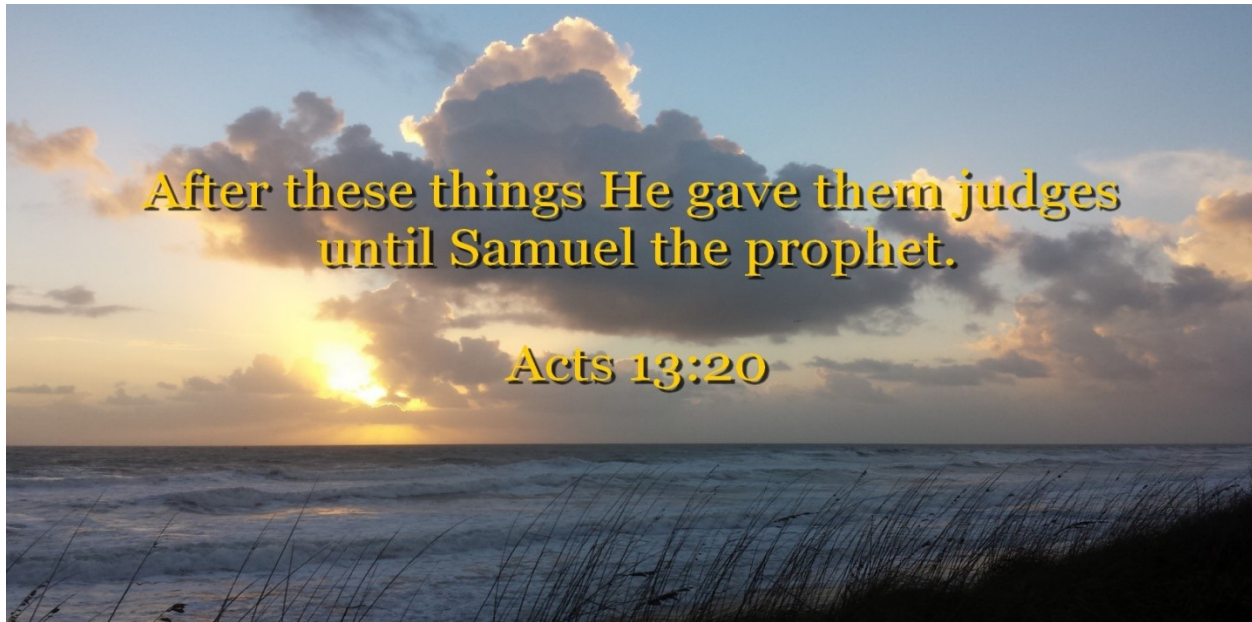
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He is the King of all nations and the Lord of all time. Will you live holy in the family of God today by lifting praises to God Who holds all things in His hands?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 459

Gave Today



What happened after God gave them the nations as an inheritance? God gave them judges until Samuel the prophet.

Paul began with God choosing His people, the forefathers of Israel, to bring them out of the land of Egypt where they were enslaved. Then God brought them into the Promised Land and gave His people the land of seven nations.

Next, God gave the people judges until Samuel the prophet. In the history of Israel, Samuel anointed kings over Israel. Samuel anointed King Saul and Samuel anointed David his successor. Samuel looked forward and spoke about Christ, as did all the prophets from Samuel forward.

The prophets of Israel from Samuel forward spoke of Christ suffering with glory to follow. The Jews at the time that Christ took flesh and dwelt among them were looking for a ruling King, not a Suffering Servant. Jesus of Nazareth came to give His life a ransom for many. Jesus would return to earth as the ruling King in the future.

Judges

1. **After**. What happened after God destroyed seven nations? God gave the land to the people of Israel and appointed judges over them.
2. **Things**. Those things took four hundred fifty years for God to give the land of the people of Israel.
3. **He**. After giving the land of the people of Israel, He gave judges to the people of Israel.
4. **Gave**. God gave judges to the people of Israel to implement His Law and provide guidance according to His Commandments.
5. **Judges**. Those judges spanned the period from the taking of the land to the time of Samuel the prophet.
6. **Samuel**. Living holy in the family of God means that God appointed Samuel a prophet of Israel.
7. **Prophet**. We rejoice today because as a prophet of Israel appointed by God, Samuel anointed King Saul and his replacement, King David.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the time of the judges in Israel.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the time of the prophets arose after the time of the judges.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the history about the different judges in the different prophets appointed by God in the Old Testament for our benefit as examples today.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering God appointing judges and prophets to provide guidance to the people of Israel. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for the many judges and prophets of the Old Testament?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 460

King Today



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.

Acts 13:21

What did the people ask from God? They asked for a king.

In the book of Deuteronomy God anticipated Israel having a king. With the close of the Book of Judges in the Old Testament, the people of Israel told Samuel they wanted a king. Samuel felt heartbroken that the people had rejected him, but God explained to Samuel that the people of Israel had rejected God as being their King. They wanted a man to go out and fight their battles for them. They had forgotten that God had promised to always fight for them and He alone would be their King.

God gave them Saul, the son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin. Paul was also from the tribe of Benjamin. Samuel anointed Saul as king. Paul was also named Saul. Saul ruled the people of Israel for forty years.

Saul was not a good king and did not follow the ways of God. Samuel had to tell Saul that he would not continue to be king and that his kingdom would be ripped away from him. Saul had high regard Samuel, but still did many evil things as king.

As Paul stood in the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch, he traced the history of Israel to the time of the Kings of Israel. Paul would show that Jesus of Nazareth was the rightful Heir to the throne of David and also the Messiah of Israel.

Saul

1. **Then**. What happened after Samuel was appointed prophet? The people asked for a king.
2. **They**. They asked for a king because they were no longer willing for Yahweh to be King over them.
3. **Asked**. When they asked Samuel for a king, he was discouraged by their request.
4. **King**. In Deuteronomy God had spoken about a king of Israel.
5. **Gave**. God gave them a king, but said that they had rejected Him as being their King after all He had done for them.
6. **Saul**. Living holy in the family of God means that we recognize King Jesus, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
7. **Forty**. We rejoice today because Samuel anointed Saul as king and he came from the line of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin and he reigned for forty years, but also did much evil during the time.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the people of Israel rejected God as their King and asked for a human king.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by delighting in God being our eternal King and living in His kingdom.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and King of kings.**

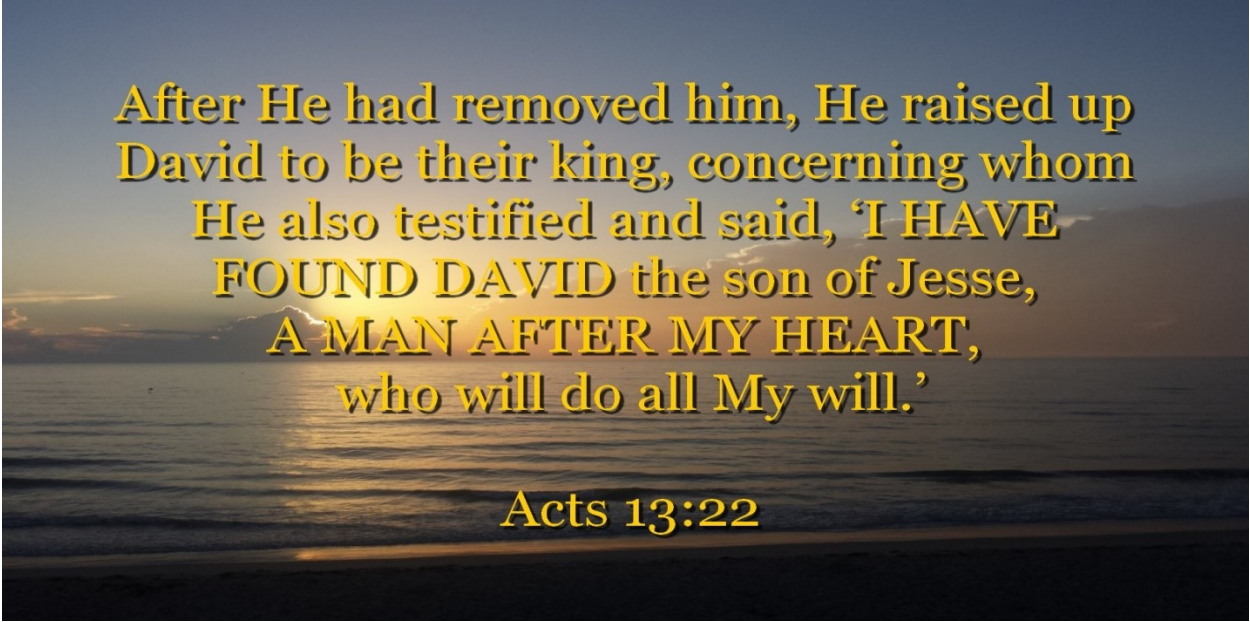
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by subjecting ourselves to the rule of King Jesus every day. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising Him for the glorious majesty of the kingdom of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 461

Removed Today

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon. The water reflects the colors of the sky. The text is overlaid in a yellow, serif font.

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.'

Acts 13:22

Who followed Saul as king of Israel? God raised up David to be the next king.

David possessed some great spiritual qualities. God said that David was a man after His own heart. God also said that David would do all God's will. God valued the heart of David and his willingness to do all of God's will.

God removed Saul because Saul lacked those same spiritual qualities. Saul took matters into his own hands and offered sacrifice when he should not have done. Samuel came with bad news that Saul would no longer be king of Israel.

David was a shepherd boy at the time that Samuel anointed him to be king. God did not look upon the outward appearance of David, but rather upon his heart which was devoted to God. David's heart was like God's heart. David did not seek to do his own will, but the will of God. Therefore, David would make a great ruler of Israel because he did not want to impose his own

will as King, but rather he sought to help the people of Israel follow the will of God.

Raised

1. **He**. What happened to King Saul? God removed King Saul from being king over Israel because he sinned against God repeatedly.
2. **Removed**. God removed Saul as king, just as He had installed Saul as king.
3. **Raised**. After removing Saul as king, God raised up a shepherd boy to be king.
4. **David**. God chose David, the son of Jesse, to be king over all Israel.
5. **Testified**. God testified about the spiritual qualities of King David.
6. **Heart**. Living holy in the family of God means that God said that David was a man after His own heart.
7. **Will**. We rejoice today because God also testified that David would do the will of God as he reigned over Israel as king.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by doing the will of God out of a heart cleansed by God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering David, the shepherd boy who would do the will of God as King of Israel.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His perfect heart and perfect will.**

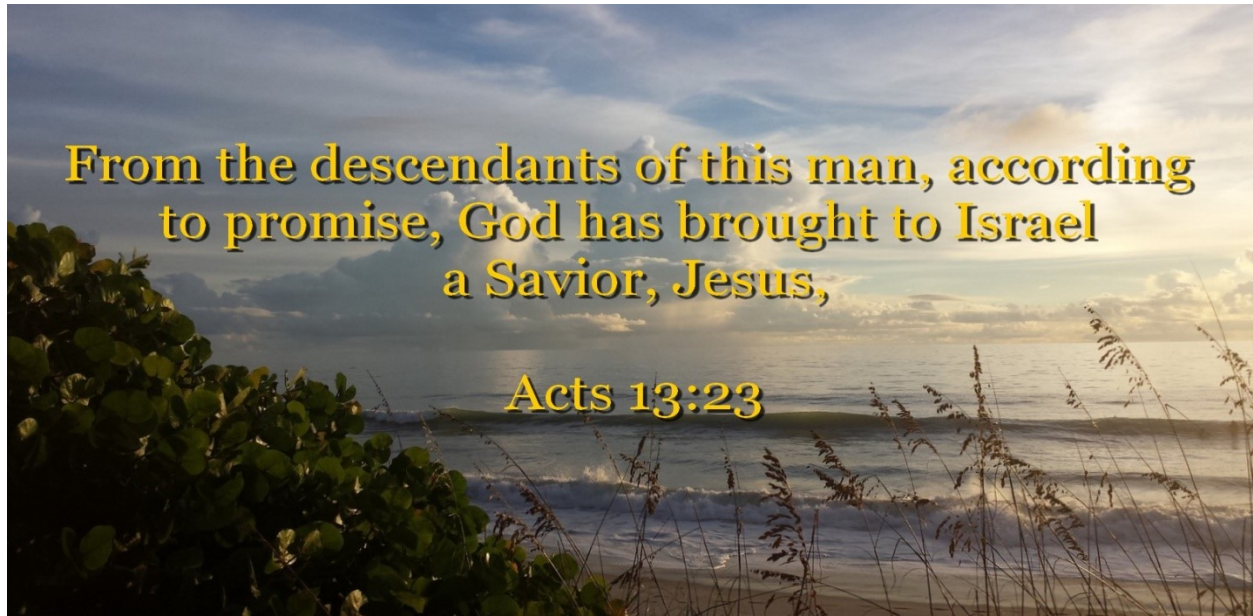
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in having a clean heart within us, sprinkled clean by the waters of regeneration. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that He has cleansed your heart and calls you to do His will every day?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 462

Descendants Today



How did Paul link up his message to King David? Paul observed that from the descendants of David, according to the promise of God, God brought forth a Savior to Israel, Jesus of Nazareth.

Paul was speaking in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch. The synagogue officials had invited Paul and Barnabas to give a word of exhortation during their visit to the synagogue. They had just come from Cyprus where they had been preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul was speaking to Hellenistic Jews and God-fearers. Paul started with a history of Israel and God leading their forefathers out of Egypt. Paul then went over 450 years of history and concluded with David becoming king of Israel. God described David as a man after His own heart who would do the will of God. The Jews all over the New Testament world held King David in high regard and looked forward to someone taking his throne. They were looking for the Messiah King to come to Israel and establish His reign upon the earth.

Paul was a master of Old Testament history. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit, he skillfully wove together the Old Testament history with the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah of Israel. All the prophets from Samuel forward described His suffering with glory to follow.

Savior

1. **From**. Who brought forth a Savior? God brought forth Jesus as Savior from the descendants of David.

2. **Descendants**. God made a promise to David that he would not lack descendants to sit on his throne.

3. **Man**. David was a man after God's own heart and God made a covenant with David about raising up a house for him.

4. **Promise**. Through the descendants of David the Messiah would come to Israel, just as God promised David.

5. **God**. God made lots of promises in the Old Testament and has never broken even one of them.

6. **Israel**. Living holy in the family of God means that God brought forth a Savior for Israel, and the whole world, in the fullness of time.

7. **Savior**. We rejoice today because God brought forth Jesus, a descendent of David, to suffer first and then reign in glory after.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the promises of God made to David about Messiah.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by counting upon God to keep all of His promises day after day, and year after year, and century after century, and forever and ever.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God brought forth Jesus, the divine Heir to the throne of David.**

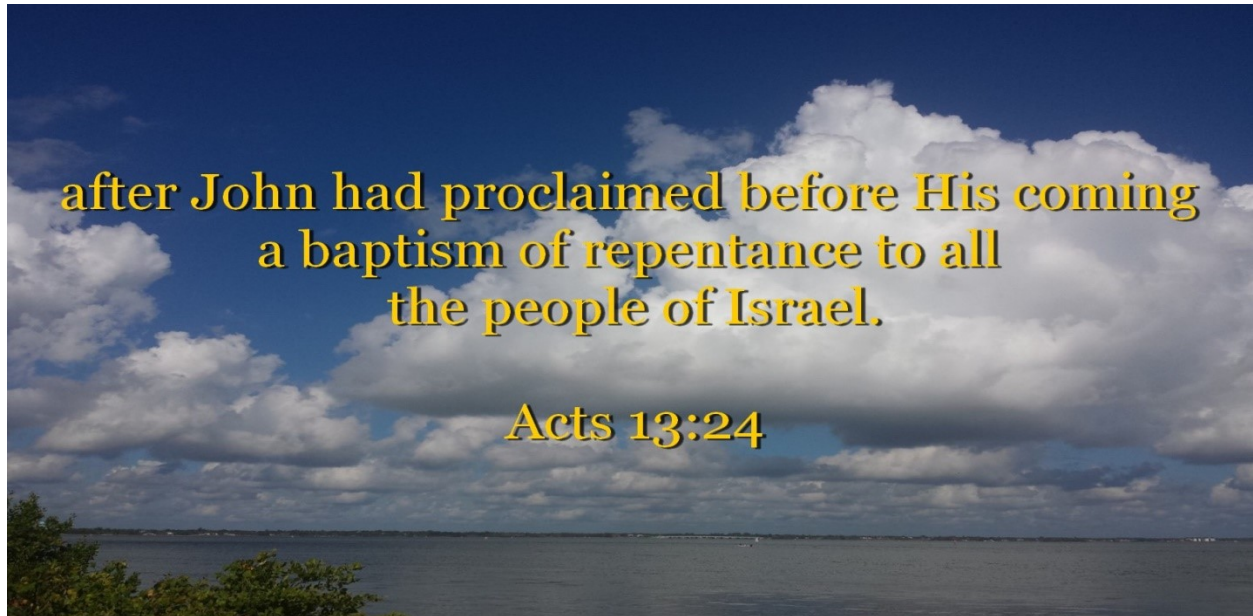
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the promises made to David and how they came true in Jesus our Savior. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His great promises about Jesus as Savior which all came true?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 463

Proclaimed Today



How did John the Baptist fit into Paul's message at Pisidian Antioch? Paul described John's role as preaching repentance to all the people of Israel.

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus Christ. Like a voice crying in the wilderness, so John lifted his voice calling for the people to come and be baptized for repentance of sins. Crowds came out from Jerusalem and the surrounding districts to be baptized by John the Baptist.

John the Baptist faithfully testified that he was not the Messiah, but one was coming of Whom he was not worthy to untie the thong of the sandal. John said that he baptized them with water, but the coming One would baptize them with fire and the Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament prophets had spoken about John the Baptist coming. John prepared the way of the Lord and made the paths of Israel straight before Him. Jesus said that no one greater was born of women than John the Baptist. Jesus even came to John for baptism so that they would fulfill all righteousness together. The baptism of Jesus stands as the perfect model for every believer. John proclaimed repentance for the people of

Israel, so that they would be ready to receive the Messiah of Israel, Jesus of Nazareth.

Baptism

1. **After**. What did John proclaim? John proclaimed that Jesus was coming.
2. **John**. John prepared the way for the Messiah by preaching in the wilderness.
3. **Proclaimed**. John proclaimed a baptism of repentance, preparing the way for Jesus of Nazareth.
4. **Baptism**. The baptism of repentance which John proclaimed stirred the hearts of Israel. The more they understood they were sinful and needed a Savior, the more they would look to Jesus as that Savior.
5. **All**. John proclaimed his baptism to all the people of Israel.
6. **People**. Living holy in the family of God means that the people of Israel came out to John for the baptism in water, but their hearts remained hardened towards God and His Anointed Son.
7. **Israel**. We rejoice today because Jesus came as the Savior of Israel, just as John proclaimed as he prepared the way for Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the ministry of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus of Nazareth.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for all the prophets, including John the Baptist, who spoke about the Christ coming and suffering with glory to follow.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for loving the world in sending His unique Son to be our Savior.**

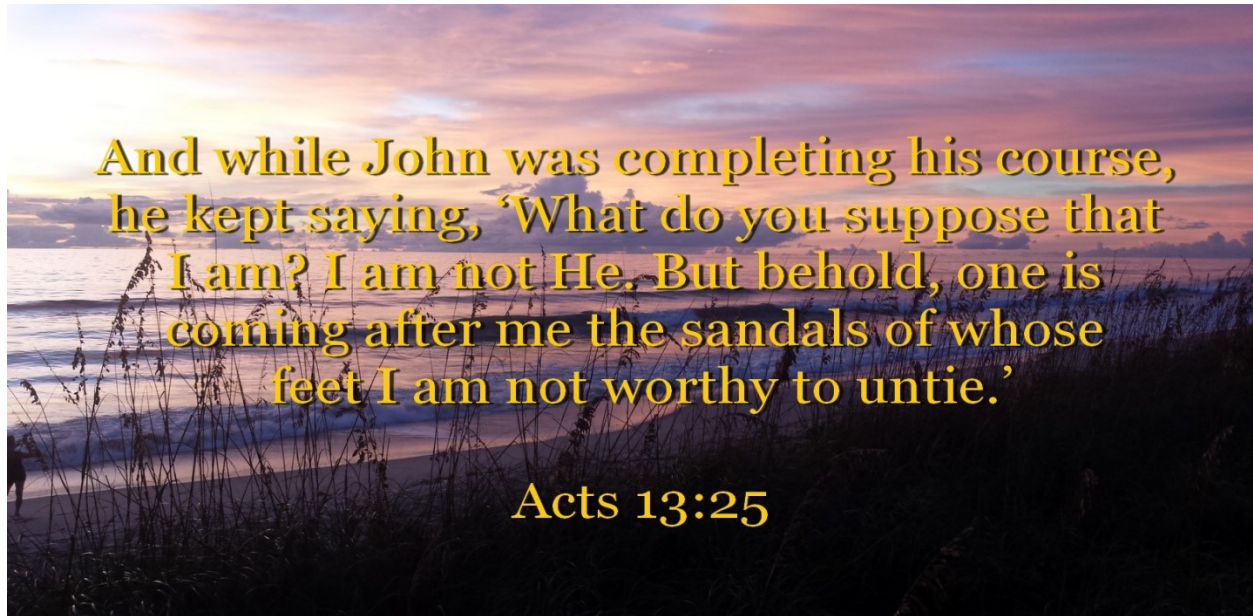
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the plans of God to prepare the way for Jesus through the baptism of John. Will you live holy in the family of God today by speaking to the hearts God has prepared to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 464

John Today



What did John the Baptist say about himself? He said he was not worthy to untie the sandals of the One coming after him.

Paul recounted the history of Israel up through King David. Then Paul tied David to the Messiah Jesus as a descendent of David. Next Paul turned to John the Baptist. Paul proved that John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.

When questioned about who he was, John the Baptist declared that he was not the Messiah. He proclaimed that he was unworthy to untie the sandals of Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah of Israel.

Paul skillfully proved from the prophecy of the Old Testament that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies concerning the birth the Messiah and the sufferings of Messiah. In contrast to the expectation that Messiah would come and rule the world, Jesus actually came as the Suffering Servant who gave His soul a ransom for many.

Paul led the people in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch to examine the prophecies of the Old Testament and see that Jesus Christ fulfilled all the prophecies about Messiah taking flesh and dwelling among men. Paul emphasized that Jesus of Nazareth was the only Messiah of Israel.

Coming

1. **Course**. What happened while John the Baptist ran his course? John proclaimed that Messiah was coming after him.
2. **Saying**. John the Baptist was saying that he was not the Christ.
3. **What**. He has asked the rhetorical question: “What do you suppose I am?”
4. **Not**. John denied that he was the Christ, but pointed forward to Jesus coming as the Messiah of Israel.
5. **Coming**. The coming of Christ had been prophesied through the prophets, including John the Baptist, since the time of Samuel.
6. **Sandals**. Living holy in the family of God means that John the Baptist proclaimed to everyone that he was not worthy to untie the sandals of Jesus.
7. **Worthy**. We rejoice today because John knew he was not worthy of Jesus, but humbled himself before Jesus and prepared the way for the Messiah.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the humility of John the Baptist, a great prophet.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for all the prophets who spoke about Jesus coming as the Messiah in the fullness of time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about the Savior coming and giving His soul a ransom for many.**

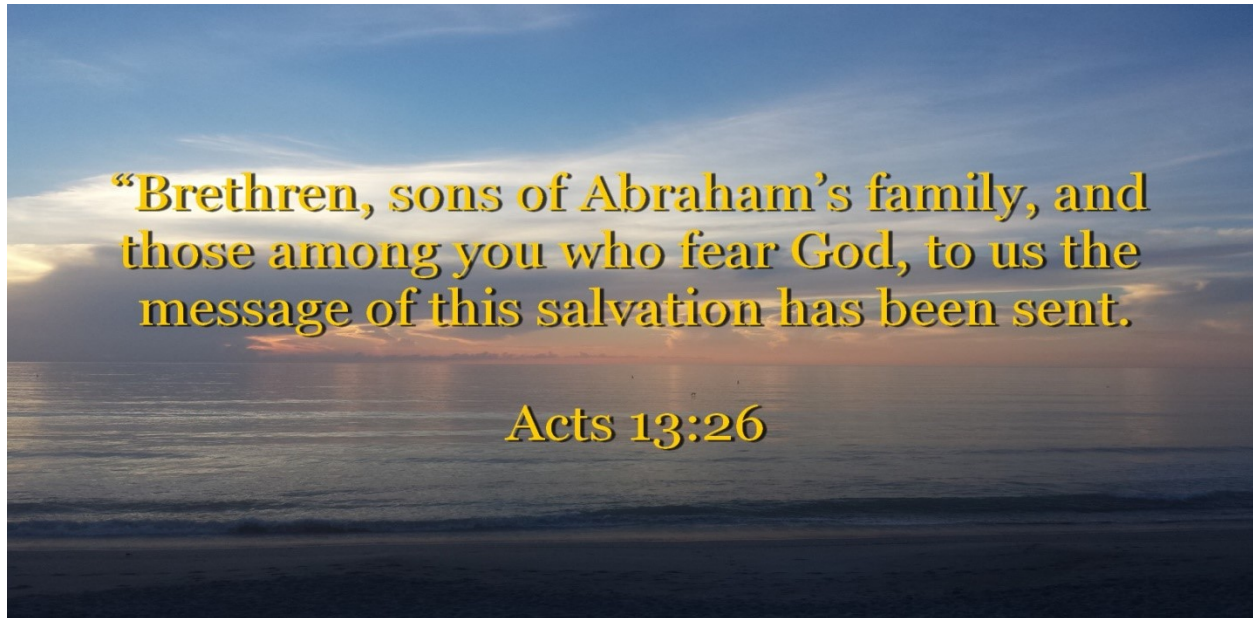
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering John the Baptist and his ministry of pointing people to Jesus as they repented of their sins in the waters of baptism. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for sending Jesus to fulfill the prophecies of John the Baptist who prepared the way for Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 465

Sons Today



What did Paul proclaim to the Jews and the people among them who feared God? Paul declared that the message of this salvation has been sent to them.

Paul did not stand in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch to give a dry history lesson. Instead, Paul came to proclaim the good news of salvation to the entire congregation, both Jews and Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas had been traveling, spreading this same message in Cyprus and now they had come to Pamphylia.

The Holy Spirit commanded the saints in Antioch to set Paul and Barnabas aside for the work that He had called them to do. They were to take the word of God to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles. That Antioch church had many Greeks and Jews in the congregation.

God had richly blessed the work at Antioch so that many people turned to the Lord there. Barnabas brought Saul there from Tarsus and together they worked for nearly a year together at Antioch. Then the Holy Spirit called

them and sent them to Cyprus and then up to Pisidian Antioch. All along the way they were proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Salvation

1. **Brethren**. Which brethren had Paul addressed? Paul addressed the sons of Abraham's family and the God fearers in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch.

2. **Abraham's**. God had promised Abraham that all the nations of the earth would be blessed in him. Therefore, Paul described the Jews at Pisidian Antioch as Abraham's family.

3. **Us**. Paul included himself in that group by using the term us.

4. **Message**. Paul had the happy message from God that salvation had arrived in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth.

5. **Salvation**. Salvation from sins dominated the preaching of Paul.

6. **Has**. Living holy in the family of God means that God has sent the message of salvation through faithful laborers like Paul and Barnabas.

7. **Sent**. We rejoice today because God sent someone to each of us to proclaim the message of salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the message of salvation was sent to both Jews and Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for the person who came and shared the message of salvation with you.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for sending men like Paul and Barnabas to distant lands proclaiming the message of salvation.**

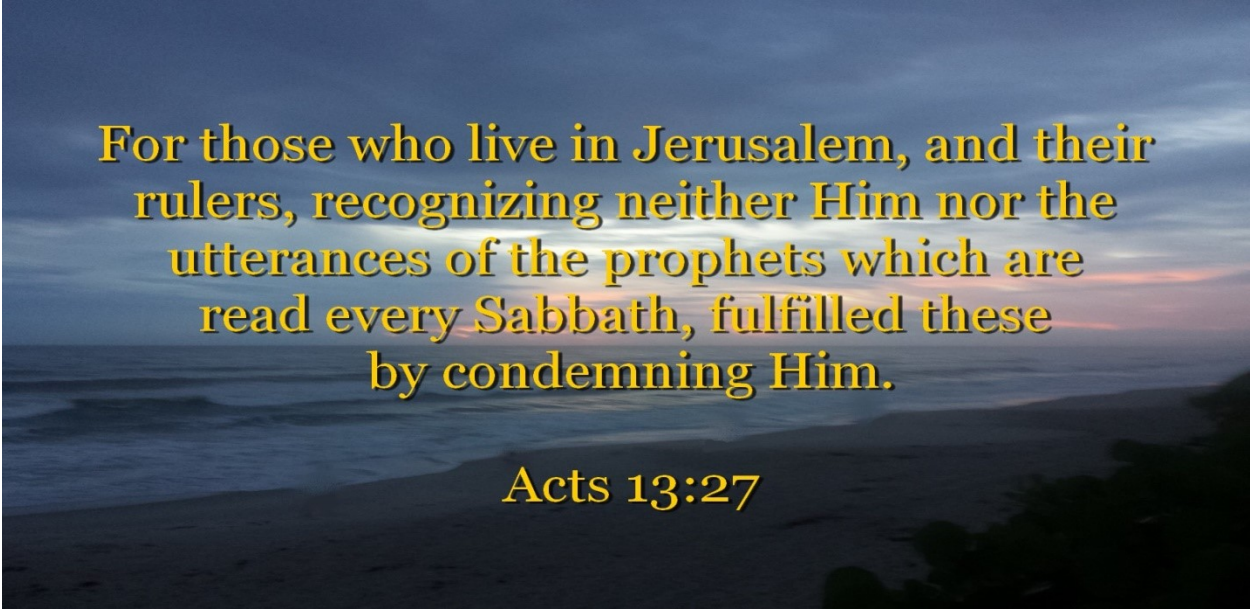
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by going each day to where God sends to proclaim the message of salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking the message of salvation to the people God sends you to today?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 466

Jerusalem Today



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.

Acts 13:27

How did the people in Jerusalem and their rulers fulfill prophecy? They condemned Jesus the Messiah.

Paul drove straight to the heart of the gospel as he addressed the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch. He started with a brief history of Israel and concluded with proof that the people of Jerusalem and their rulers fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament concerning the suffering of Messiah at the hands of His own people. Jesus came to His own and His own did not receive Him. In fact, His own people, the Jews of Israel, crucified Him. Their rulers were in hearty agreement with putting Jesus to death on a cross.

The people of Israel and their rulers did not recognize Jesus nor the utterances of the prophets. From Samuel onwards, all the prophets spoke about the sufferings of Messiah and the glories to follow. Yet, the people of Israel and their rulers did not grasp the significance or application of those prophecies concerning the suffering of Messiah. Instead, they fulfilled the Scriptures by putting the Lord Jesus Christ to death on a cross. Paul made

the people at Pisidian Antioch very uncomfortable by declaring that the Jews were responsible for the death of their own Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.

Fulfilled

1. **Jerusalem**. What did the people of Jerusalem do to Jesus? They condemned Him to death.
2. **Rulers**. The rulers of those people joined in the condemnation of Jesus.
3. **Recognizing**. Not recognizing Jesus nor the words of the prophets, which were read every Sabbath in the synagogues, they condemned Jesus.
4. **Him**. The Jews and their rulers did not recognize Him, even though they read in the prophets about Him every Sabbath.
5. **Prophets**. In the synagogues, including Pisidian Antioch, the Jews read the prophets every Sabbath.
6. **Sabbath**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews took time to read the prophets every Sabbath, but did not recognize Jesus of Whom the prophets spoke when He appeared in the flesh.
7. **Condemned**. We rejoice today because God raised Jesus from the dead and provided forgiveness for everyone, because He was condemned to death for our sins by people who never knew Him of Whom the prophets spoke.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that the prophets spoke about Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah of Israel.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that people read the Scriptures every Saturday and Sunday, but many of them have never known Jesus as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reading the Scriptures and remembering the prophets and all they spoke about Jesus of Nazareth, the Savior of the world.**

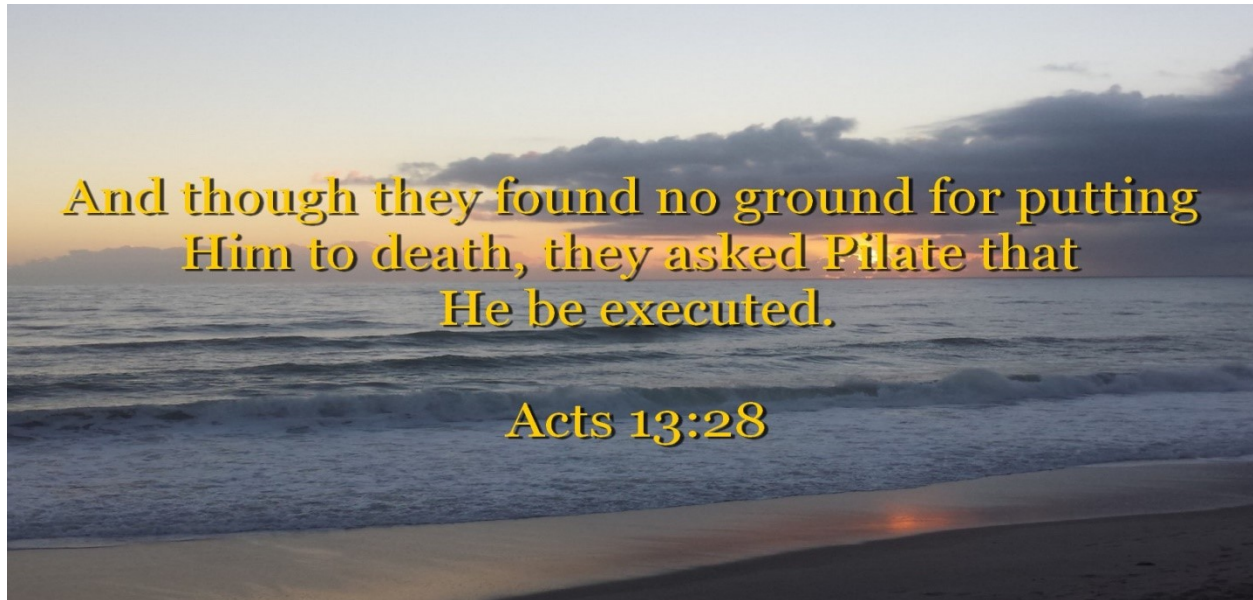
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus because He sent people like Paul and Barnabas to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to people who condemned Him in the flesh. Will you live holy in the family of God today by continuing the work begun by Paul and Barnabas in spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to new lands and places?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 467

Death Today



What did the Jews ask Pilate to do for them? They asked Pilate to execute Jesus.

The trial of Jesus before Pilate, the Roman governor, was a mockery of justice. The Jews brought trumped up charges against Jesus. Pilate himself then examined Jesus and repeatedly declared that he found no guilt in Jesus. Even so, Pilate was willing to beat Jesus and then release Him to the crowd. The crowd threatened Pilate and he capitulated to their demands and handed Jesus over to them for crucifixion.

The Jews found no ground for putting Jesus to death. Fueled by their hatred for Jesus without cause, they tried them in their own Jewish courts, found Jesus guilty, and brought Him to Pilate. Pilate understood that the Jews were jealous of Jesus and so brought charges against Him. The Jews did not have authority in themselves to condemn a man to death; they needed the Roman government to put Jesus to death and so prevailed upon Pilate to do just that.

At all times Jesus did not resist arrest or open His mouth to provide a defense to the charges. No one had any basis to condemn him of any crime, much less impose the death penalty.

Executed

1. **Found**. What finding of fact did the triers of fact make about Jesus? They found no basis for putting Jesus to death.
2. **Ground**. They had no ground to seek the death penalty for Jesus.
3. **Death**. Having examined Jesus personally, Pilate found no guilt in Jesus whatsoever.
4. **They**. The Jews did not have the authority to put Jesus to death; they required Roman consent.
5. **Asked**. Therefore, they asked Pilate to put Jesus to death for them.
6. **Pilate**. Living holy in the family of God means we remember that the Jews came to Pilate asking that he would use his Roman authority to execute Jesus.
7. **Executed**. We rejoice today because God raised Jesus from the dead after the Jews executed Him with Roman consent.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the resurrection of Jesus Christ followed His horrible death by crucifixion.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the historical details of the crucifixion of Christ so that we may tell others about them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by striving for purity of doctrine and practice as we follow the Lord Jesus Christ in all things.**

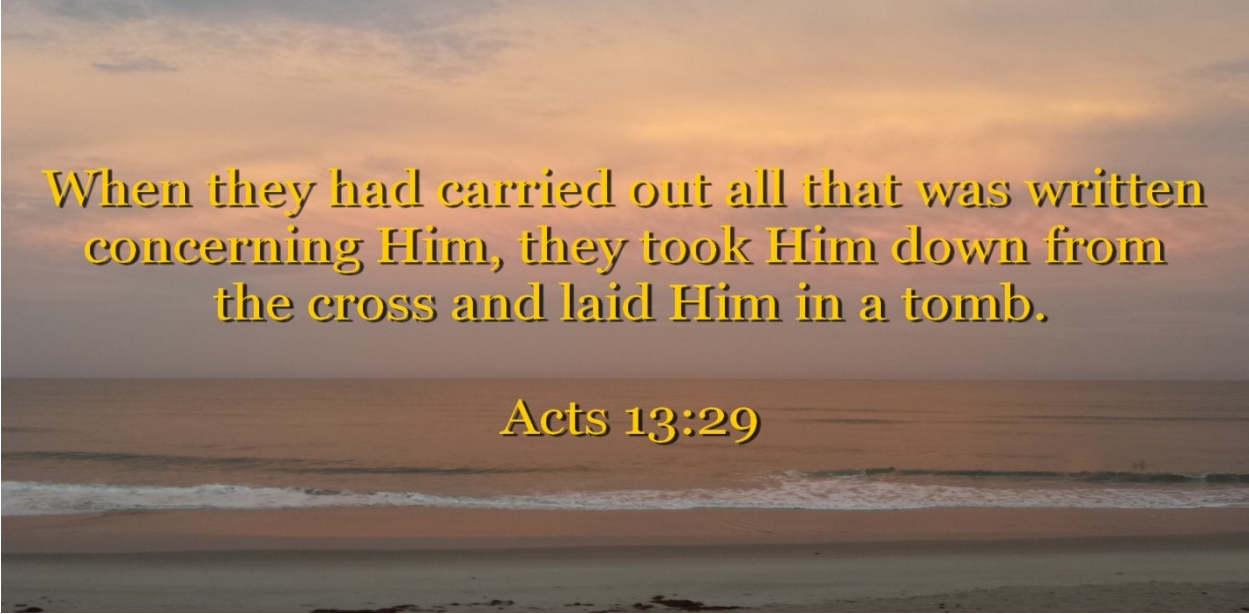
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews asking for the execution of the Lord Jesus. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that you are redeemed with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as He was tortured and then crucified for us?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 468

Written Today



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

Acts 13:29

What happened before Jesus was taken down from the cross? The Jews carried out all the things written concerning Jesus before He was taken down from the cross.

As Paul stood speaking in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch, he recounted the history of Israel and then focused upon how the Old Testament Scriptures proved that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ of God. Paul showed that all the prophets from Samuel onwards spoke about the suffering of Christ and glory to follow.

Paul then highlighted the sinfulness of the people who crucified Christ. Those people included the Romans, the rulers of Israel, and the people of Israel. They all conspired together to murder the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul placed the blame on the forefathers of the people in the congregation at Pisidian Antioch.

In exposing the blame of the forefathers of Israel, Paul demonstrated that they fulfilled all that was written of Christ and His suffering at their

hands. Jesus was not taken down from the cross until all the prophecies pertaining to Him suffering were fulfilled by the people making Him suffer.

Tomb

1. **When**. When was it time to take Jesus down from the cross? Paul emphasized it was time to take Jesus down from the cross only after all that was written about Him in the Old Testament prophets was fulfilled.

2. **Carried**. The Jews carried out all those prophecies without understanding what they were doing or the full significance of their evil acts.

3. **Written**. The Old Testament prophets had written about the sufferings of Christ with glory to follow.

4. **Him**. They wrote about Him, not always understanding the full scope of what God revealed to them as prophets.

5. **They**. Having fulfilled all that was written about the Lord Jesus by the prophets, they took Him down from the cross.

6. **Down**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jews took Jesus down from the cross, having fulfilled their lust for His death.

7. **Cross**. We rejoice today because the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising Jesus that He fulfilled every prophecy concerning His death before they took Him down from the cross.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God that His prophetic word always comes true.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the God always keeps His word and it never fails.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that no prophecy from Him ever failed. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to always keep His prophetic word?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 469

God Today



What happened after they buried the Lord Jesus? God raised Him from the dead.

Paul repeatedly emphasized that without the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the saints have no hope and are of all men most miserable. The resurrection of Christ shows that our faith is real, sustainable, and guaranteed by God Himself.

As the first fruit of the resurrection, Jesus stands at the front of a long line of people who will be resurrected by the power of God. If Jesus has not been raised from the dead, then we are still in our sins. The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrates that Jesus was God and will always be God. Death cannot hold God in its grasp.

When God raised Jesus from the dead, sin and death no longer held dominion over His children. They had been held captive through the fear of death. With the resurrection of Jesus, all those fears ended forever. The power of the resurrection became a reality in the lives of all believers because

God promised to raise them by His power at the right time. The resurrection power of God energizes the lives of saints every day.

Raised

1. **But**. What did God do after the crucifixion? God raised Jesus.
2. **God**. The Jews killed Jesus, but God raised Jesus.
3. **Raised**. God raised Jesus from the dead by His divine power so that death was swallowed up in victory.
4. **Him**. When God raised Him from the dead, God sealed our justification.
5. **From**. Jesus died just like any other human died. He gave up His spirit and His soul departed the body. But God raised Jesus from the dead.
6. **The**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Jesus truly died in the flesh, but God raised Him from the dead by His divine power which works in us today. Jesus had authority to lay down His soul and to take it up again.
7. **Dead**. We rejoice today because God raised Jesus from the dead, because death could never hold Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God raised Jesus from the dead.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God for guaranteeing our salvation by raising Jesus from the dead.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that the power of the resurrection works in our life every day.**

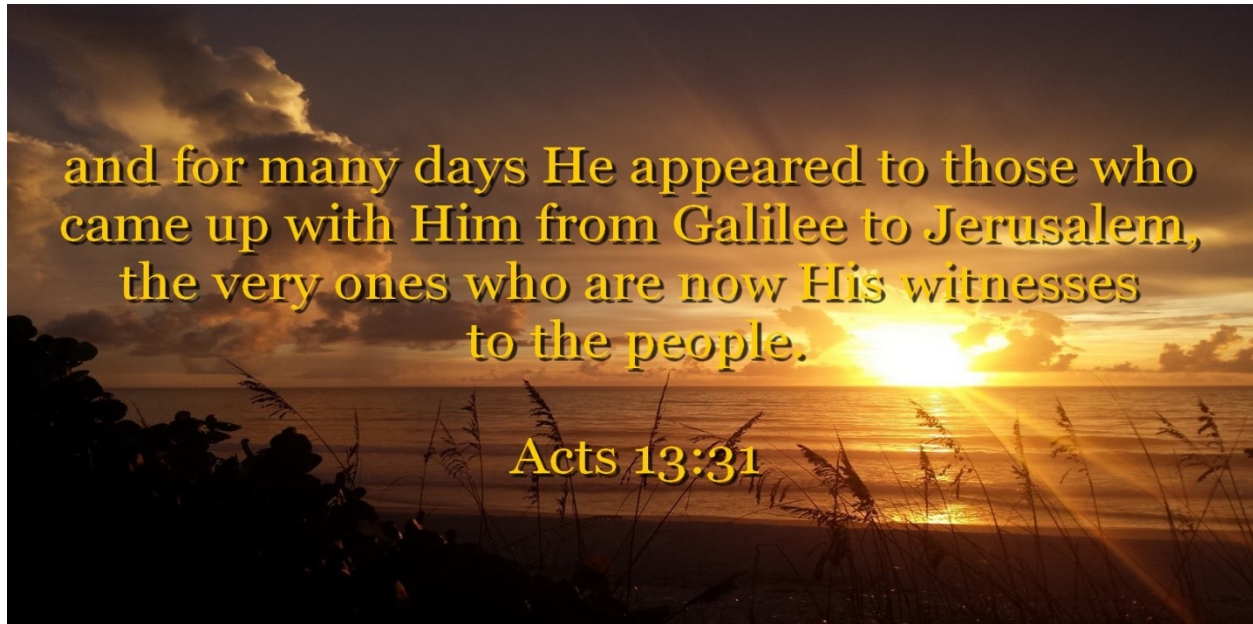
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in the power of resurrection at work in us every day. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that we will be raised from the dead just like Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 470

Appeared Today



To whom did Christ appear after His resurrection? Christ appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem.

Paul emphasized that the apostles were eyewitnesses of the resurrection of Christ. They were not following cleverly devised fables, but presenting eyewitness testimony. The risen Christ had appeared to them in person on several occasions in different places. The apostles recognized Jesus, talked with Jesus, and ate with Jesus.

When Paul stood in that synagogue at Pisidian Antioch, Paul could testify as an eyewitness of meeting the resurrected Christ on the Damascus Road. Paul could not qualify to be one of the twelve apostles because he was not with the other apostles from the baptism of John to the ascension of Christ. Paul was converted to Christ after the ascension.

The apostles gave eyewitness testimony to the resurrection of Christ and to His life and ministry in the flesh. The Holy Spirit had filled them and empowered them to be such witnesses all over the world. Jesus

commissioned them to take the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Witnesses

1. **Many**. What proof did Paul offer that Jesus was raised from the dead by God? Paul mentioned the twelve apostles as witnesses.

2. **Appeared**. Jesus appeared alive in bodily form to the twelve apostles after His crucifixion.

3. **Galilee**. Those witnesses came from Galilee to Jerusalem.

4. **Now**. Those same witnesses now testified to the resurrection of Christ.

5. **His**. Jesus chose those twelve apostles so that they would be His witnesses.

6. **Witnesses**. Living holy in the family of God means that God provided twelve witnesses who testified that they saw Jesus, the risen Savior, and ate with Him and talked with Him on numerous occasions after His crucifixion.

7. **People**. We rejoice today because the apostles continue their testimony today to people about the resurrection of Christ through the Scriptures detailing the facts contained in their eyewitness testimony.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the eyewitnesses who testified that God raised Jesus from the dead.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for selecting trustworthy eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for raising Jesus and providing perfect eyewitness testimony about the risen Christ.**

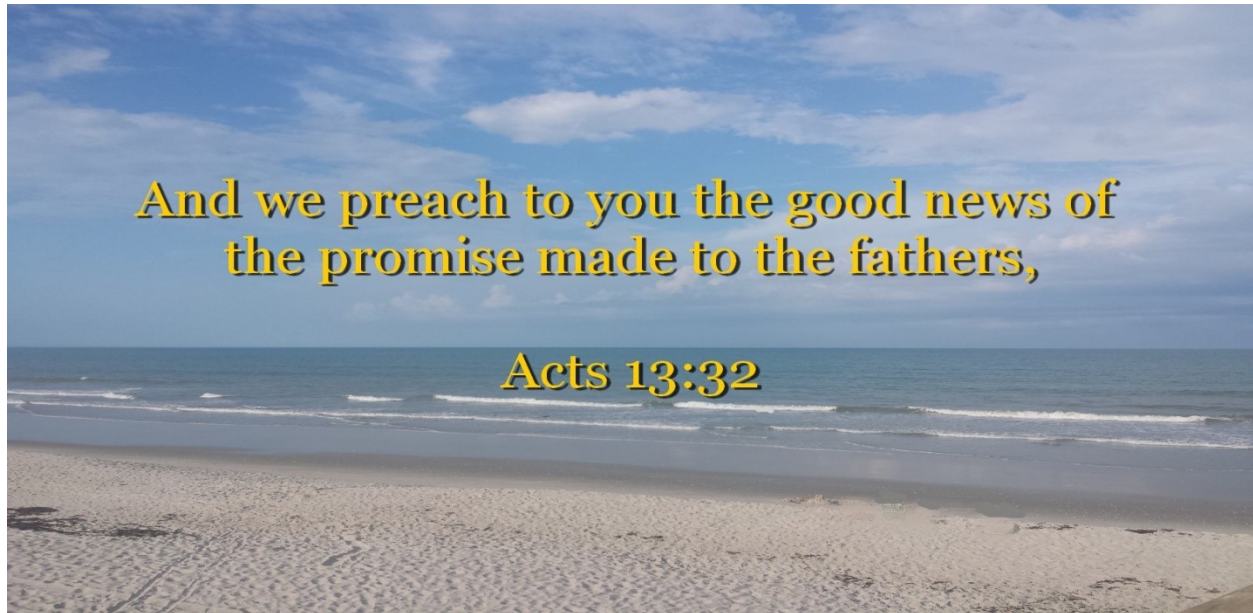
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God called upon twelve men to provide eyewitness testimony about the resurrection of Jesus Christ for the whole world. Will you live holy in the family of God today by adding your testimony that you know Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 471

Good News Today



What good news did Paul and Barnabas preach? They preached the promise made to the fathers.

At Pisidian Antioch Paul preached to the Jews and Gentiles in the synagogue there. He emphasized the history of Israel. He showed how the prophets spoke about Jesus as a suffering Messiah with glory to follow.

Paul then turned to the life of Jesus and His fulfillment of prophecy. Paul showed how John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus. Then Paul recounted how the Jews caused Jesus to be crucified, even though Pontius Pilate found no guilt in Him.

Paul also declared that God raised Jesus from the dead. For many days He appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. Those people served as His witnesses.

Paul crafted the message to lead people to salvation in Jesus Christ. Without Christ and His resurrection from the dead, no one has salvation. Because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the power of God, He

triumphed over the grave and sin. Once and for all Jesus paid the price of the death penalty which all sinners deserved. He gave His life for ours.

Promise

1. **We**. What did Paul preach at Pisidian Antioch? He preached good news of the promises God made to the people there.

2. **Preach**. Paul and Barnabas had been preaching the good news in all the places God was in the process of sending them.

3. **You**. Paul made it personal with the people at Pisidian Antioch by showing that God's promises applied to them by using the word 'you'.

4. **Good**. Those people received good news based upon the Scriptures which Paul preached to them.

5. **Promise**. God promised the fathers of Israel that Messiah was coming.

6. **Made**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas preached good news about Jesus Christ in the synagogues.

7. **Fathers**. We rejoice today because the promises made to the fathers of Israel became blessings to both Jews and Gentiles through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the promises He made to the fathers of Israel.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Paul preaching at Pisidian Antioch about the promises made to the fathers and fulfilled in the Person of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the preaching of Paul and His wonderful application of Old Testament prophecies to the people sitting before him at Pisidian Antioch.**

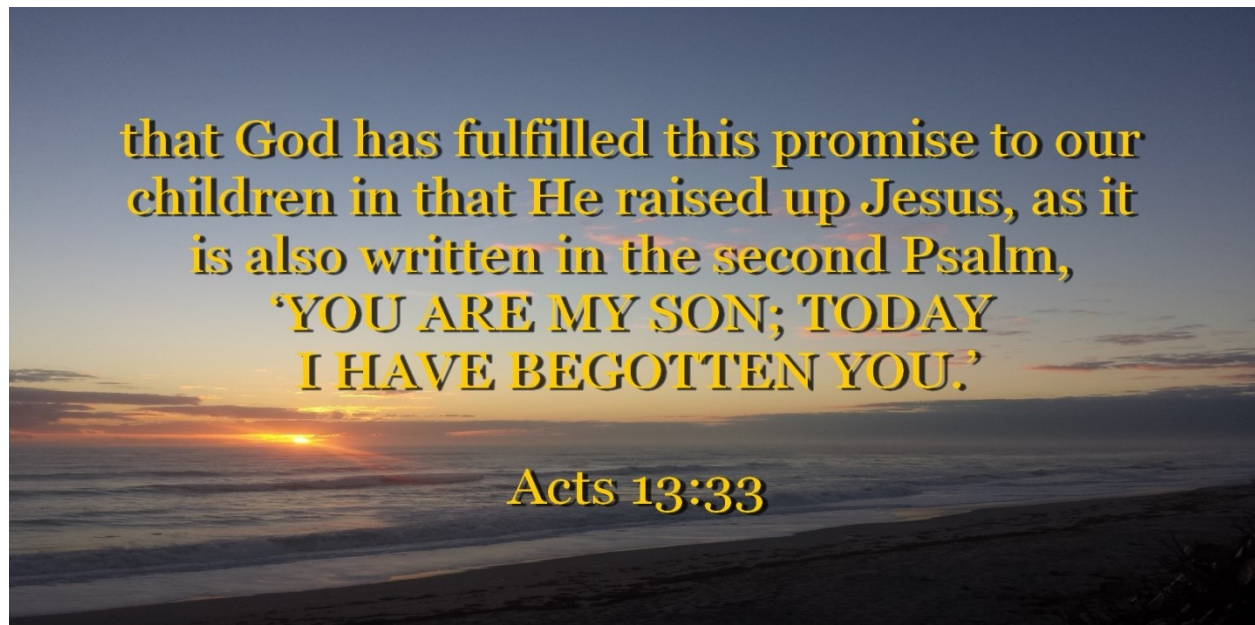
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Scriptures so that we can apply them to the people we know today. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the promises He made thousands of years ago and then kept every one of them by raising Jesus up?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 472

Raised Today



Why did Paul quote the second Psalm? Paul quoted Psalm 2 to show how God fulfilled the promise to our children.

Paul quoted Psalm 2 which says: "You are My Son; today I have begotten You." Paul linked that Psalm to the promise made to the fathers of Israel. God promised to raise up a Son from the People of Israel. In Psalm 2, God declared that day had come. Paul showed that that day was the day of Jesus Christ being raised up.

Paul has in view raising up Jesus from the dead. Jesus was the firstborn from among the dead. He truly died on the cross. He died to make redemption in the flesh by shedding His blood for our sins and laying down His soul for our salvation.

Paul proved from the Old Testament Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah. Paul made complete proof; showing that all the messianic prophecies dealing with the death of Christ were fulfilled before Christ was

taken down from the cross. No one took the life of Jesus from Him. He had authority to lay down His soul and to take it up again.

My Son

1. **God**. What promise applied to the children? God raised up Jesus.
2. **Fulfilled**. By raising up Jesus, God fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy.
3. **Children**. That prophecy applied to the children of Israel.
4. **Raised**. In the second Psalm, God declared: “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.” Paul linked that Psalm to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
5. **Son**. Jesus was declared the Son of God with power through the resurrection.
6. **Today**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that God raised up Jesus in fulfillment of Old Testament Scriptures.
7. **You**. We rejoice today because God had only one Son, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and God raised Him up on the third day after His crucifixion.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul applied Psalm 2 to Jesus and the resurrection.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He raised up Jesus as His Son.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for raising up Jesus Who brought us the best news ever.**

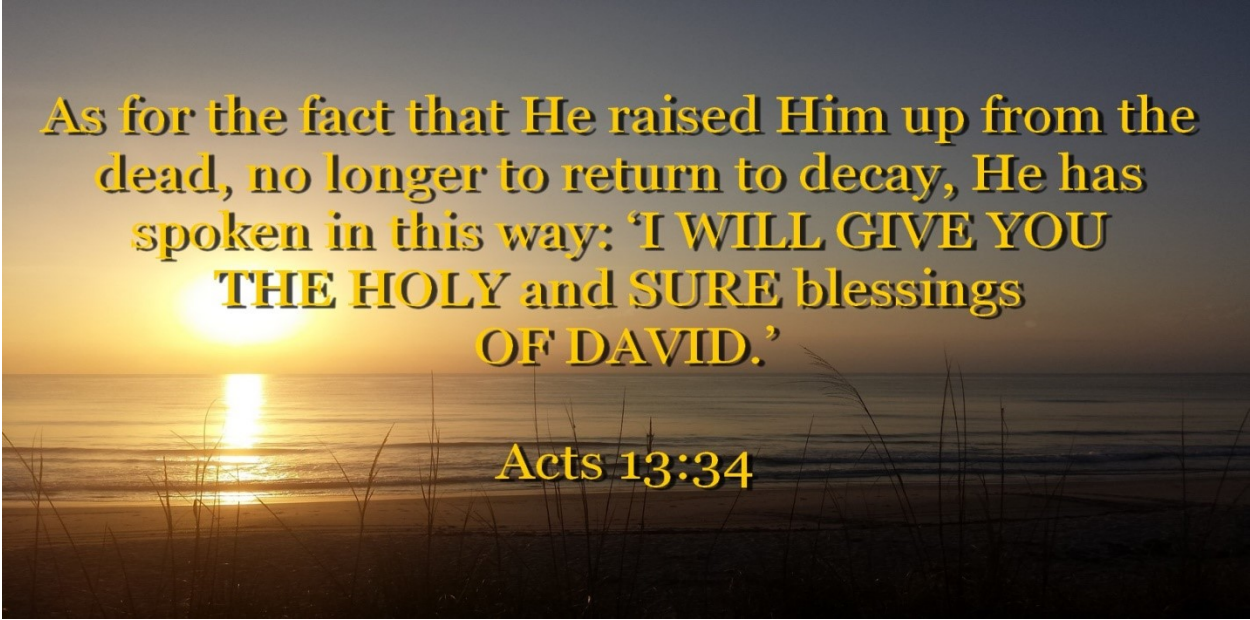
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for raising up Jesus and declaring Him the Son of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for raising up Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 473

Holy Today



As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY and SURE blessings OF DAVID.'

Acts 13:34

What did Paul say about the holy and sure blessings of David? Paul quoted the Scripture where God said: "I will give you the holy and sure blessings of David."

Paul applied that Scripture to the fact that God raised up Jesus from the dead. Jesus would no longer return to decay. In fact, the body of Jesus experienced no decay at all because He was raised in glory. He went into the grave with a body just like ours, but he was raised with a body imperishable, incorruptible, immortal and full of glory.

Jesus promised that He would raise up on the last day all the people who have faith for salvation in Him. Paul was applying those promises to the people in the synagogue and their children. Paul masterfully showed how the Old Testament promises regarding Messiah applied to the present and future generations.

By faith in Jesus Christ the people at Pisidian Antioch could partake of salvation through Jesus Christ. But there was salvation in no other. Paul was calling upon them to make a decision about Christ that day in the synagogue.

Blessings

1. **Raised**. Will Jesus return to decay? God raised up Jesus so that He would never return to decay.

2. **Dead**. God raised up Jesus from the dead so that He triumphed forever over the grave and the power of death.

3. **Decay**. The body of Jesus never underwent decay.

4. **Give**. Jesus remains eternally alive to fulfill the promise of God that He will give Jesus the throne of David.

5. **Holy**. God will give Jesus the holy blessings of David.

6. **Sure**. Living holy in the family of God means that God's blessings are always sure to come about, even if they take thousands of years to come true.

7. **David**. We rejoice today because Jesus will sit on the throne of David one day and fulfill the promise of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the long-term fulfillment of God's promises.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the holy blessings of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His holy and sure blessings to David and his descendants.**

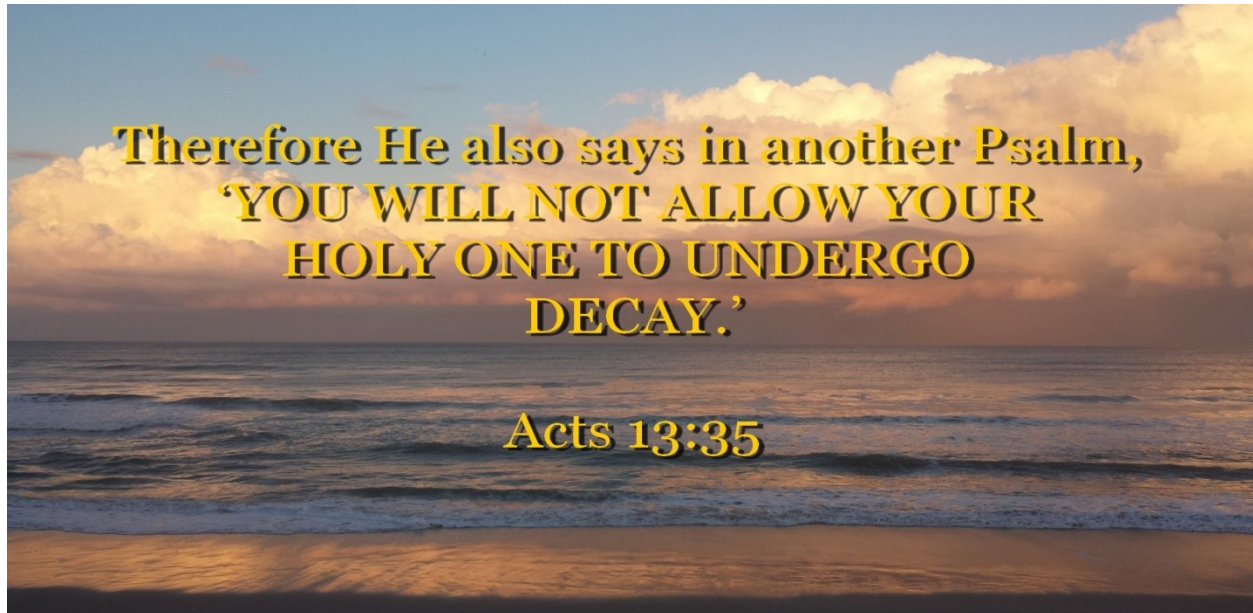
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus, the beneficiary of the promises of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping Jesus, the eternal King Who will one day sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 474

Not Allow Today



Did the body of Jesus Christ decay in the tomb? The psalmist said that God would not allow His Holy One to undergo decay.

When Jesus was resurrected from the grave, His body had not decayed after death. God promised that His Holy One would not undergo decay. Jesus did not come out of the tomb for 40 days and then return to the tomb to decay. In fact, Jesus appeared to many people over those 40 days in His resurrected body. He ate with them, talked with them, and spent time with them. He invited them to touch His hands in His side where He had been wounded at the cross. Jesus built courage in His disciples with His appearance after the crucifixion.

Paul emphasized that the Old Testament Scriptures regarding the Holy One were all fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ of God. As Paul stood preaching in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch, Jesus was alive and the Holy Spirit was helping Paul deliver his message. Paul brought the promises of the God of the Old Testament home to the people in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch. His message resonated with the Old Testament Scriptures and

opened the new way with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah and only Savior of the world.

Decay

1. **Therefore**. What did God say about His Holy One? God said that He would not allow His Holy One to undergo decay.

2. **Not**. Paul showed from Psalm 2 that God spoke about Jesus of Nazareth as the Son of God. Paul specifically declared that the Psalmist spoke about the resurrection of Jesus.

3. **Allow**. God also proclaimed through the Psalmist that the body of Jesus would never undergo decay.

4. **Your**. The Psalmist described Jesus as the Holy One of God. God called Jesus: “Your Holy One.”

5. **Holy**. Jesus truly lived a holy life without sin, although He was tempted in all ways as we are.

6. **One**. Living holy in the family of God means that means that we recognize Jesus as the Holy One of God.

7. **Decay**. We rejoice today because the Scriptures showed that Jesus would die, but His body would never undergo decay.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for the Holy One of God, Jesus our Savior.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God raised Jesus from the dead so that His body would never undergo decay.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by looking forward to the day where we will be raised up bodily from the dead just as Jesus was raised bodily from the dead.**

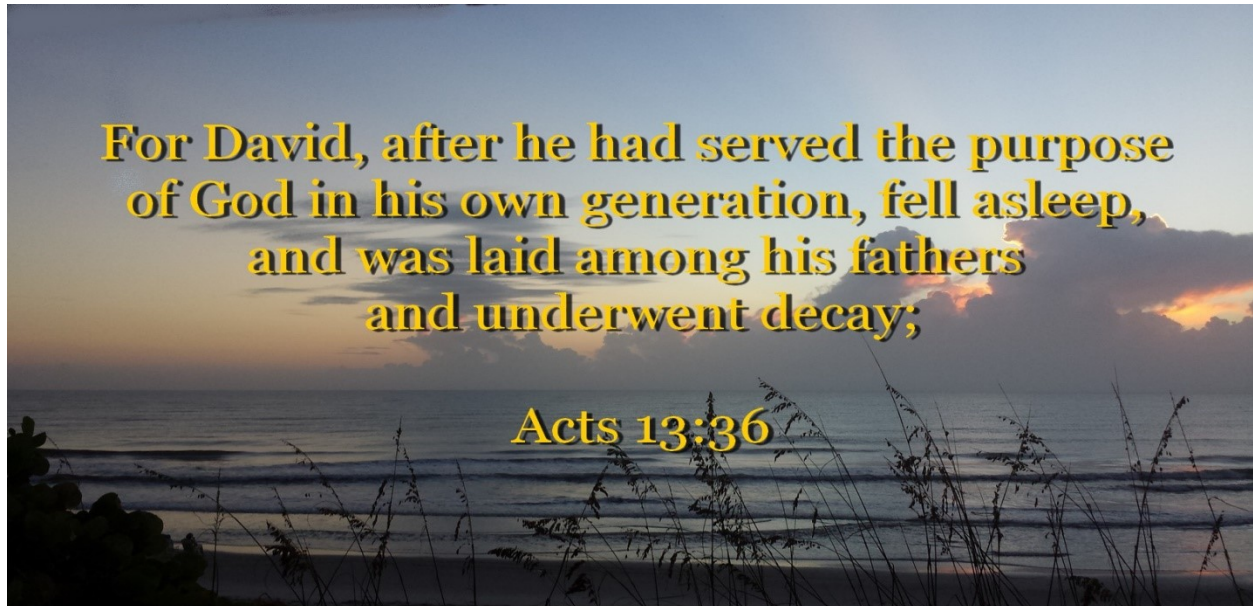
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking forward to our bodily resurrection in Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for raising Jesus from the dead so that His body would never undergo decay?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 475

David Today



What happened to the body of David? David's body underwent decay in the tomb.

Paul contrasted King David with Jesus Christ. Paul had already shown that Jesus Christ was the heir of David who would sit upon the throne of David in the future. Paul then showed that the body of Jesus never underwent decay, but the body of David underwent decay.

Paul explained that after David had fulfilled the purposes of God, he fell asleep and was laid among his fathers and his body underwent decay. We know that David was spiritually present with Yahweh at the moment of death. Jesus showed that He is the God of the living, not of the dead. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all recline with Jesus today in heaven.

Paul marvelously showed that the Old Testament Scriptures regarding the Messiah were all fulfilled in Jesus and no one else. Only Jesus of Nazareth died on the cross and was resurrected three days later. Only Jesus of Nazareth had multiple witnesses, more than 500 at one time, of His resurrection. No one could produce the body of Jesus because it never

underwent decay, but was raised incorruptible, imperishable, immortal and glorified. Jesus ascended to heaven with a body, leaving nothing behind on earth.

Underwent Decay

1. **David**. What happened after David fulfilled the purposes of God for his generation? He fell asleep.

2. **Purpose**. God had specific purposes for the life of David and David accomplished those purposes.

3. **Asleep**. Having accomplished the purposes of God, David fell asleep, meaning that he died physically, but was immediately present with Jesus in heaven.

4. **Laid**. His body was laid his fathers.

5. **Fathers**. David joined his fathers in heaven with Jesus, although his body was laid with his fathers in the dust of the earth.

6. **Underwent**. Living holy in the family of God means that the body of David underwent decay as it lay in the dust of earth.

7. **Decay**. We rejoice today because while David's body decayed lying in the dirt, the body of Jesus never underwent decay.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that David served the purposes of God and his generation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that the body of the Lord Jesus Christ never underwent decay, although David's body underwent decay.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He will raise us up and give us glorified bodies one day.**

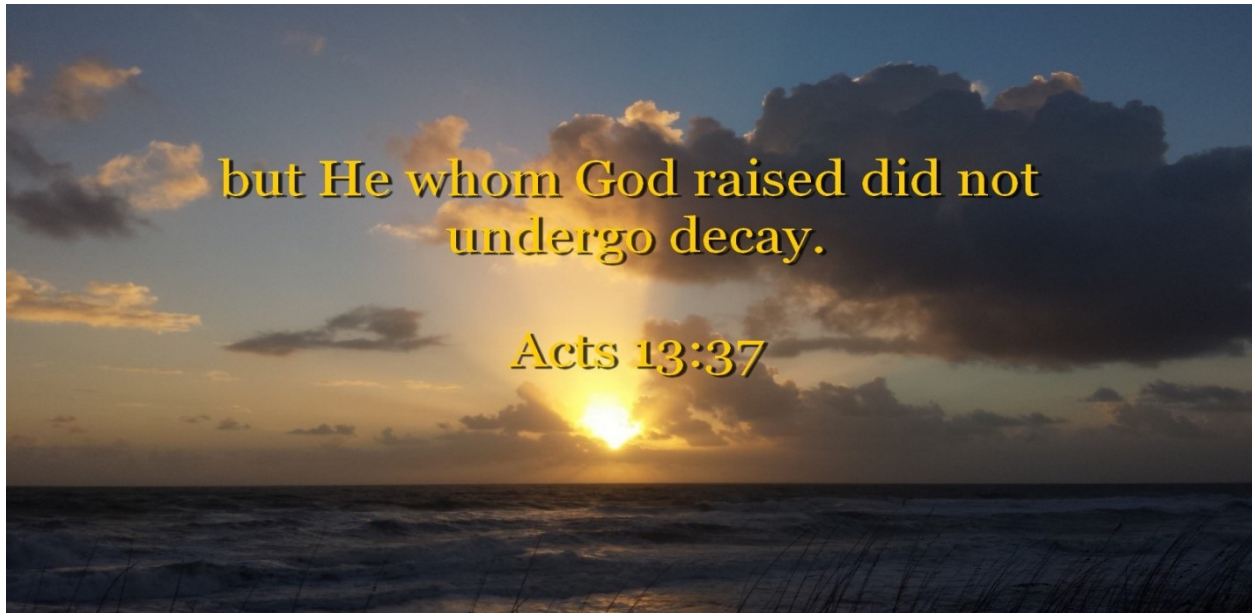
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking forward to the day when God will raise our bodies from the dead. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that He will raise our decayed bodies from the Earth when Jesus returns for the Clouds Resurrection?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 476

God Today



What happened to the body of Jesus? He Whom God raised did not undergo decay.

One of the proofs Paul offered to the synagogue audience was that the body of Jesus never underwent decay. In fact, no one could produce the body of Jesus to prove that He was not resurrected. The Jews paid the prison guards to say that the disciples snatched away the body of Jesus, but that story never went very far. The empty tomb provides convincing evidence that Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

God raised Jesus from the dead. God provided ample testimony through the prophets that Jesus would die with glory to follow. In other words, the death of Jesus was not the end of Jesus. Jesus would reign upon the throne of David in His resurrected body. God not only provided historical testimony before it ever happened, but God provided contemporaneous testimony through the apostles who witnessed Jesus risen from the dead.

The eyewitnesses testified that God raised Jesus from the dead. The apostles and Paul could all testify that they had seen Jesus after His resurrection.

Raised

1. **But**. What contrast did Paul draw between Jesus and David? The body of David decayed after death, but the body of Jesus did not.
2. **He**. Paul referred to Jesus as He Whom was raised by God from the dead.
3. **Whom**. Paul understood that the resurrection of Jesus Christ was a cornerstone of the Gospel of Jesus Christ Whom God raised from the dead.
4. **God**. Because God raised Jesus from the dead, His body never underwent decay.
5. **Raised**. When God raised Jesus from the dead, God raised the body of Jesus from the dead.
6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that the body of Jesus Christ did not undergo decay, because God raised up the body and made that glorified body incorruptible and immortal.
7. **Decay**. We rejoice today because the body of Jesus never underwent decay because God raised Him bodily from the dead.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the truth that the body of Christ never decayed because God has raised Jesus bodily from the dead.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus as our risen Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for raising Jesus from the dead.**

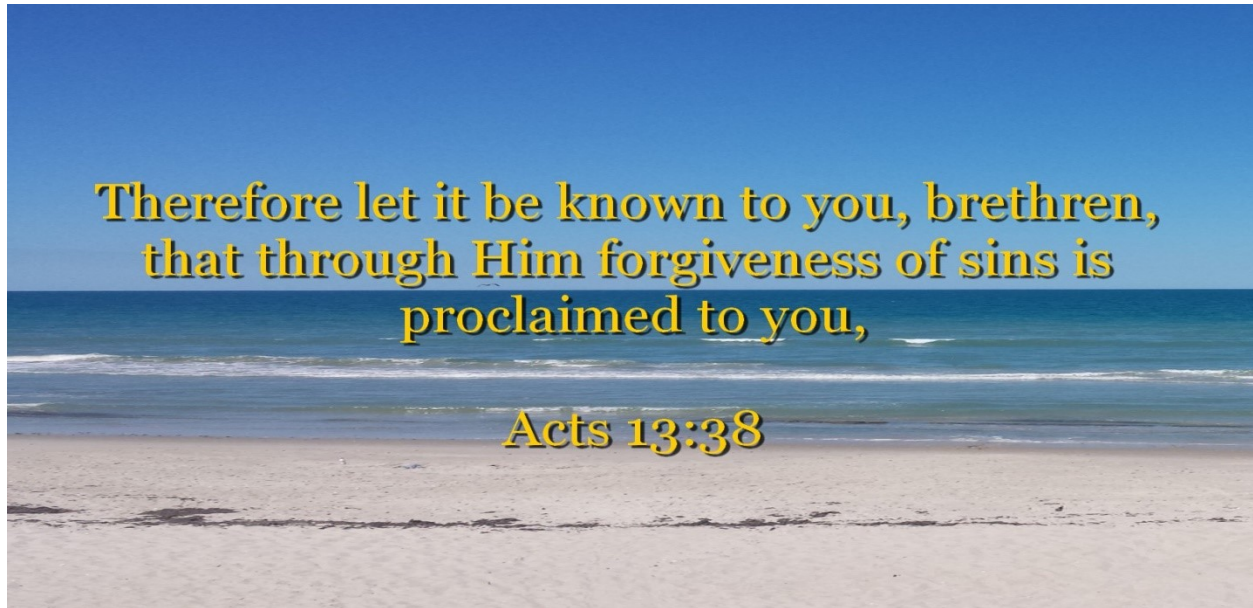
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul proclaiming that God raised Jesus from the dead so that His body did not decay. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for raising Jesus bodily from the dead?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 477

Forgiveness Today



What was Paul proclaiming about forgiveness? Paul proclaimed forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ.

As Paul stood preaching in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch, Paul emphasized the historical foundations of the coming of Jesus Christ as Savior of the world. Paul began with the people of Israel being called out of Egypt into the Promised Land. Then Paul transitioned to the prophets and focused upon King David. God promised King David an heir to sit on his throne and Jesus Christ fulfilled that prophecy. Indeed, every prophet from Samuel onward spoke of Jesus and His sufferings with glory to follow.

Paul was not intent upon merely giving a history lesson to the people sitting in the synagogue that day. Paul wanted them all to go to heaven. So Paul said that he wanted it to be known to them, calling them brethren, that through Jesus forgiveness of sins was being proclaimed to them.

Paul traveled through Cyprus with Barnabas, proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. After leaving Cyprus they arrived in Pisidian Antioch. Having

sat down in the synagogue of Pisidian Antioch, the synagogue officials invited them to speak. Paul proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them.

Proclaimed

1. **Therefore**. What conclusions did Paul draw? Paul drew the conclusion that because God raised Jesus from the dead as Savior that only Jesus provided salvation.

2. **Known**. Paul wanted it known to the people at the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch that he proclaimed salvation to them.

3. **Brethren**. Paul considered those people in the synagogue to be his brethren according to the flesh.

4. **Him**. Paul referred to Jesus as Him Whom God raised from the dead so that His body did not undergo decay.

5. **Forgiveness**. After giving the history lesson, Paul made it plain that forgiveness of sins only comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Sins**. Living holy in the family of God means that only the Lord Jesus Christ offers forgiveness of sins in His Name. It is the only Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

7. **Proclaimed**. We rejoice today because Paul traveled far to Pisidian Antioch and proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul's conclusion that forgiveness of sins only comes through the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God raised Jesus bodily from the dead for our salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by proclaiming forgiveness of sins in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

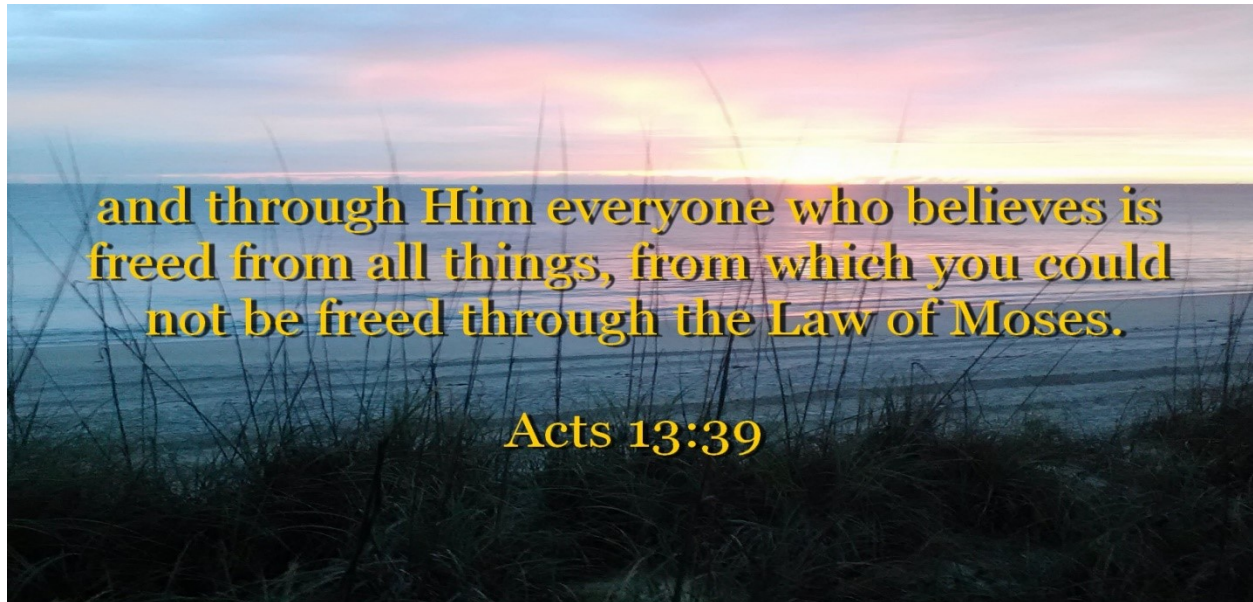
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the forgiveness of sins to our friends and family in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming forgiveness of sins through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to our friends and family and strangers?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 478

Believes Today



What did Paul say about the Law of Moses? Through the Law of Moses no one could be freed from all things.

Paul was well acquainted with the Law of Moses. Raised under the teaching of Gamaliel, a Pharisee of the Pharisees, Paul read and studied the Old Testament Law. He often quoted the Law, but after meeting Jesus Christ on the Damascus Road, Paul was saved by faith and he explained that to everyone.

Paul taught that the Old Testament Law could never take away sins. The blood of bulls and goats could never provide a permanent atonement for sins. Therefore, Jesus Christ as God in the flesh died on the cross, making full and final atonement for the sins of all people. Having paid the price of redemption through His blood offering, Christ opened the doors of heaven for all who would believe in Him as the way. By faith people go to heaven and receive justification, not by the works of the Law or any other works.

In short, Paul told the Jews in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch that keeping the Law would not free them from all things, but Jesus Christ would by faith in Him for salvation. Only Jesus could provide spiritual freedom.

Freed

1. **Through**. What happens through Jesus? Everyone who believes in Him is freed from all things.

2. **Him**. Only through Him can anyone be saved and freed from all things.

3. **Everyone**. God is no respecter of persons and so everyone who believes can be freed from all things.

4. **Believes**. Paul emphasized the priority of faith by using the word 'believes'.

5. **Freed**. Believing in Jesus for salvation brings freedom from all things.

6. **All**. Living holy in the family of God means that our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has freed us from all things, but that freedom only comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Law**. We rejoice today because Jesus, in freeing us from all things by faith in Him alone for salvation, did what the Law could never do.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus has freed us from all things by faith in Him for salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the Law could never free us from all things.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering Jesus has freed us from all things and we no longer live under bondage to the Law.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for the freedom from all things we have by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in your freedom from all things by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 479

Take Heed Today



What warning did Paul give them? Paul warned the synagogue congregation to take heed to the Prophets and so avoid the things spoken by the Prophets coming upon them.

Paul had spoken about faith in Christ as the only way to heaven. As a follower of the Way, Paul proclaimed Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to God the Father, but through Jesus the Savior. Only by faith in Jesus as Savior can people find salvation and eternal life. Through His death on the cross, Jesus made full atonement for all sin and provided a new and living way.

Paul spoke about the power of the cross of Christ. He died on the cross as an innocent man and humble God. Jesus humbled Himself through obedience by dying on the cross. His death, however, did what the Law could never do. The Law with all of its sacrifices of bulls and goats could never take away sins. The Law served as a reminder year-by-year of how sinful people were. The Law was not a source of freedom, but a tutor showing the way to Christ and the salvation He provided through His death on the cross. But

Jesus did not stay in the grave because God resurrected Him, proving to everyone that salvation and freedom from all things comes only through Jesus Christ.

Prophets

1. **Heed**. What did Paul warn his brethren about? Paul warned them that they should take heed so that the things spoken by the prophets would not come upon them.

2. **So**. Paul linked the forgiveness for sin in Jesus Christ with the warning from the Prophets to take heed to their warning.

3. **Things**. Paul did not want anyone to dismiss the warning of the Prophets and suffer the consequences.

4. **Spoken**. Paul knew about the prophecies concerning Jesus of Nazareth, and the warnings for ignoring salvation in Jesus.

5. **Prophets**. The Prophets spoke from God long ago and more recently through John the Baptist, and warned about the consequence of disbelief in Jesus.

6. **Not**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul proclaimed that the Prophets had warned people about the consequences of unbelief in Jesus as Savior.

7. **Come**. We rejoice today because God sent Paul to urge people to heed the warnings of the Prophets about salvation in Jesus and the consequence of rejecting Jesus as Messiah.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by reminding people to heed the warnings of the Prophets about ignoring faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by warning people about rejecting Jesus as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reminding saints to share their faith in Jesus as Savior because we remember the warnings of the Prophets.**

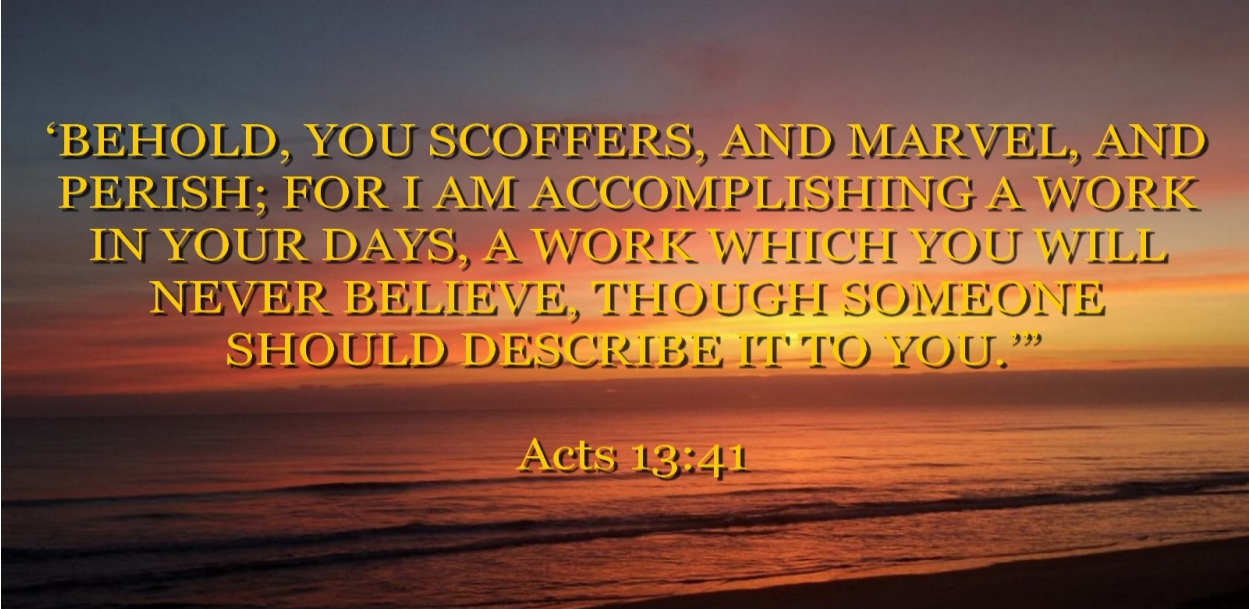
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by urging people to heed the warnings of the Prophets. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the warnings of the Prophets about people rejecting Jesus as Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 480

Scoffers Today



‘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.’”

Acts 13:41

What did the Prophets say about scoffers? Paul said they would perish.

Paul warned the Jews and God-fearers at the synagogue of Pisidian Antioch that they were in danger of having come upon them all the things spoken about by the Prophets. Paul specifically meant that the Prophets spoke about scoffers who would marvel and perish.

God said He would accomplish a work of among them in their days. They would never believe the work, though someone should describe it to them.

Paul was warning them about rejecting Jesus Christ as Savior. He again quoted the Prophet showing that they were in danger of fulfilling the Scripture about perishing. The Prophets spoke about a future people beholding the work of God and marveling, but then perishing because they did not believe the work of God Who did the work. They would not believe even though someone described that work to them.

Paul addressed them as brethren, imploring them not to fall into the unbelief described by the Prophet. Paul was proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them and they could be saved and freed that day by faith in Him.

Marvel and Perish

1. **Behold**. What did the Prophets warn? They warned scoffers that they would never believe.

2. **Scoffers**. The Prophet talked about scoffers rejecting Jesus Christ as Lord and making fun of Him.

3. **Marvel**. The scoffers will marvel before they perish in their unbelief.

4. **Work**. God was accomplishing a work in their day which they never believed.

5. **Never**. The scoffers failed to take heed to the warnings of the Prophet, although they marveled over what they saw. They did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah of Israel and so perished in unbelief.

6. **Believe**. Living holy in the family of God means that we know marveling does not mean that you believe in what God is accomplishing in your day.

7. **Describe**. We rejoice today because someone described to us what happened with Jesus and the forgiveness for sins that He offers and we believed. The Prophet said some people would not believe what God was accomplishing in their day, though someone would describe it to them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering to warn people to heed the Prophets so that they do not perish in unbelief.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by urging people to believe in the Jesus described in the Scriptures for salvation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the warning of the Prophets so that we marveled and believed what was described to us.**

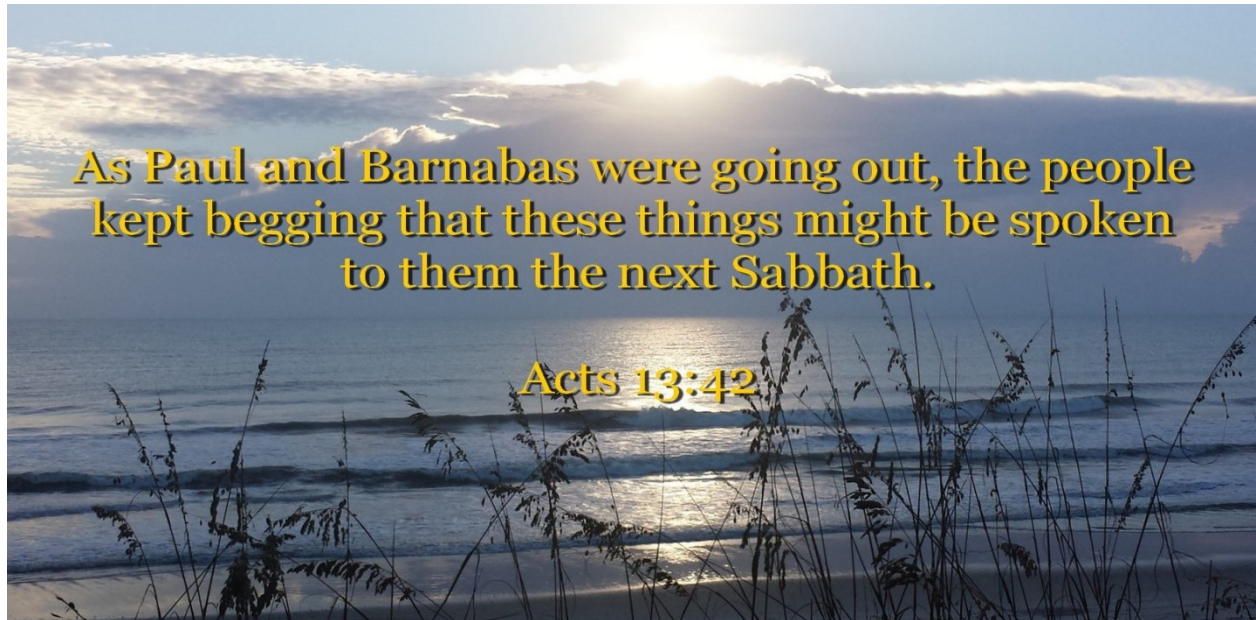
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God to provide warnings for centuries about rejecting the marvelous things God did through Jesus of Nazareth. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that someone described to you what Jesus had done for you on the cross and you believed in Jesus for salvation?

HALLELUJAH!

Day 481

Begging Today



What did the people in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch beg Paul and Barnabas to do? They begged Paul and Barnabas to speak to them on the next Sabbath.

Paul and Barnabas came to Pisidian Antioch after preaching in the island of Cyprus. They were on a mission to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in new lands. As they visited different cities in different places, they first went to the synagogue and proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews and God-fearers.

At Pisidian Antioch Paul and Barnabas took a seat in the synagogue on the Sabbath. The officials of the synagogue invited them to give a word of exhortation. Paul worked his way through the Old Testament quoting Scripture and showing that Jesus really was the Messiah of Israel. He also proved the resurrection of Jesus, showing that the body of Jesus never underwent decay.

Paul then concluded his message by urging them to avoid hearing the word of God, but rejecting Jesus as Savior. Paul showed from the prophets that merely hearing the word of God never saves anyone. The word of God must be joined with faith in their hearts for them to obtain salvation by grace.

Having concluded their message in the synagogue, Paul and Barnabas prepared to leave. Some people there begged them to come back the next week and proclaim more about Jesus of Nazareth.

Sabbath

1. **People**. What did the people want from Paul and Barnabas? They wanted Paul and Barnabas to speak more.

2. **Begging**. The people were begging Paul and Barnabas to tell them more about Christ.

3. **Things**. The things that Paul had begun speaking about in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch stirred up a lot of interest among the city.

4. **Spoken**. The people wanted to hear Paul and Barnabas the next week.

5. **Them**. What they had already heard caused them to want even more.

6. **Next**. Living holy in the family of God means that God stirs up the hearts of some people to want to hear more about the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Sabbath**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit used Paul and Barnabas to arouse the spiritual interest of many people in Pisidian Antioch.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that the Holy Spirit arouses interest in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by staying flexible on our schedules so that we can stay longer in one place as the Holy Spirit draws people to the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God because He moves in men's hearts to draw people to salvation by faith in Christ.**

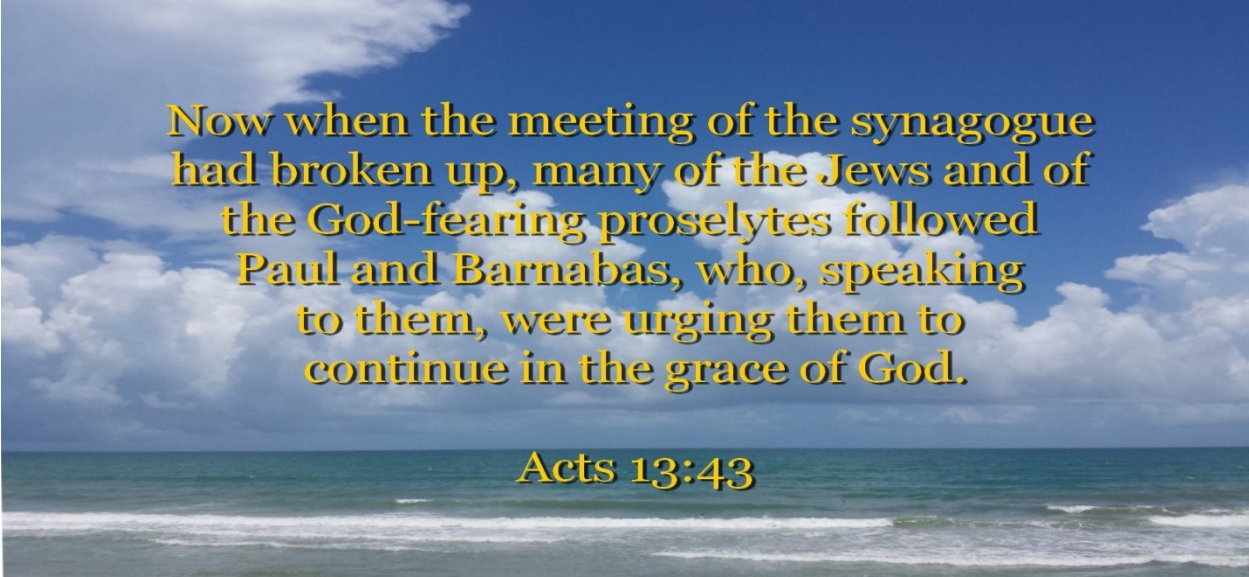
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by loving God more because He drew us to Christ and He loved us before we loved Him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by responding to people you want to hear more about the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 482

Followed Today



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.

Acts 13:43

How did many of the Jews and God-fearing proselytes in the synagogue receive Paul and Barnabas? They followed Paul and Barnabas and spoke with them.

Paul and Barnabas came to Pisidian Antioch to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them. At the invitation of the synagogue officials, Paul brought a word of exhortation. He started in the Old Testament Scriptures and worked his way up to the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

Paul concluded his message with an invitation to the congregation to receive Jesus Christ as Savior by faith. Some people begged him to return to the synagogue the next week. Many of the Jews and God-fearing proselytes talked with them. Paul and Barnabas urged them to continue in the faith.

Paul and Barnabas traveled from place to place spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit had set them apart in Antioch for just that purpose. They proclaimed Jesus first in the synagogues in the cities where they went, just as Jesus said to the Jew first and then to the Gentile. Paul proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah who would suffer with glory to follow.

Urging

1. **Now**. What happened when the synagogue meeting ended? Many people followed Paul and Barnabas.
2. **Meeting**. The meeting consisted of both Jews and God-fearing proselytes.
3. **Many**. Many of them wanted to hear more from Paul and Barnabas.
4. **Followed**. They followed Paul and Barnabas as they left the synagogue.
5. **Urging**. Paul and Barnabas were urging them and talking with them.
6. **Continue**. Living holy in the family of God means that we must take time, like Paul and Barnabas, with people who follow us outside of the meeting to talk more about Jesus.
7. **Grace**. We rejoice today because the grace of God helps people continue in their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus because He draws Jews and Gentiles to Himself.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking time after formal meetings to have informal talks with people you want to hear more about Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by urging people to continue in the grace of the Lord.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by urging people to continue in the grace of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to speak to people about the grace of God?

HALLELUJAH !

9

New Gentile

Ministry in Asia Today

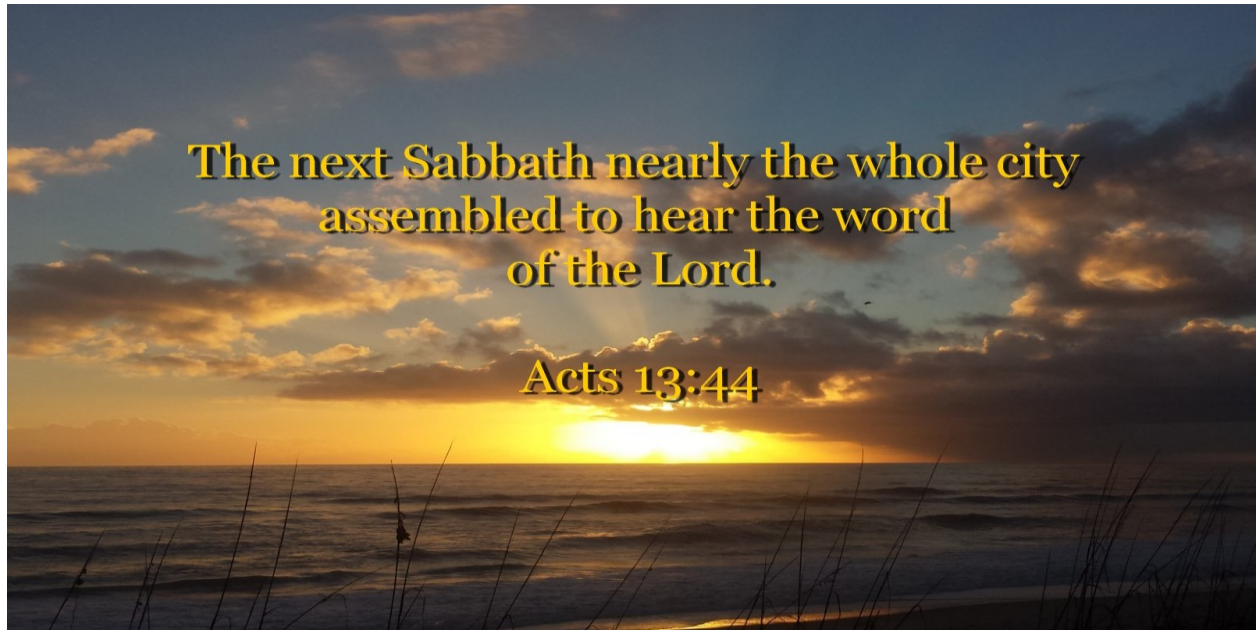
What did Paul and Barnabas do after they arrived in Pisidian Antioch? Paul and Barnabas went into the synagogue where the synagogue officials invited them to share the word. Many Jews and God-fearing proselytes believed in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. As Paul and Barnabas left that synagogue, the people begged them to come back the next week and tell them more about Jesus.

On the next Sabbath the whole city assembled to hear the word and they proclaimed Jesus to them again. The Gentiles rejoiced and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. But the Jews stirred up trouble and drove Paul and Barnabas out of the district.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 483

City Today



What happened the next Sabbath? Nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord.

Paul and Barnabas spoke in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch at the invitation of the synagogue officials. Paul preached about how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah. He concluded his message with an invitation for them to receive forgiveness of sins through the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone. Paul repeatedly emphasized that Jesus was the risen Savior and His body never underwent decay.

Before leaving for their missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas had ministered for over a year at Antioch, but not Pisidian Antioch. The saints were first called Christians at Antioch. The Holy Spirit told the saints at Antioch to set apart Paul and Barnabas for the work the Holy Spirit had for them to do. That work started with Barnabas returning to Cyprus where he had been born.

Paul and Barnabas were proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Gentiles. They were embarking upon a new era where Jews and Gentiles would sit next to each other in a local assembly worshipping Jesus Christ as fellow heirs of the grace of God.

Assembled

1. **Next**. How big was the response to Paul and Barnabas the next week? Nearly the whole city turned out to hear the word of the Lord.

2. **Sabbath**. The following Sabbath Paul and Barnabas were ready to share the word of the Lord.

3. **City**. Paul's message in the synagogue the week before caught the interest of nearly the whole city of Pisidian Antioch.

4. **Assembled**. Just about the whole city came out the next Sabbath to hear them speak about the word of the Lord.

5. **Hear**. The people had heard Paul speaking the week before and word had spread about his message about the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Word**. Living holy in the family of God means that the word of God draws people to salvation and sometimes nearly a whole city responds at once to that message.

7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because we remember that the city of Pisidian Antioch had many people who wanted to hear more about the word of Lord from Paul and Barnabas.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the whole city of Pisidian Antioch assembling to hear the word of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by trusting God that His word will go out into the community and stir up hearts.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing when we see large groups of people assembled to hear the word of God.**

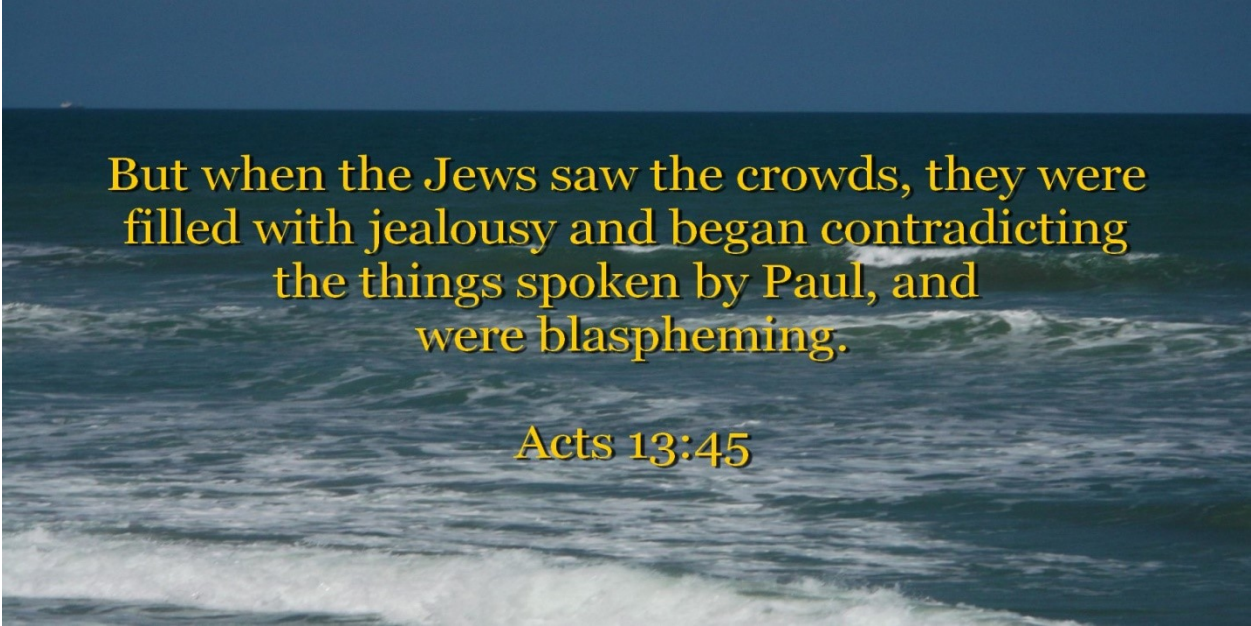
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by watching God draw people to the word of God for salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering nearly the whole city of Pisidian Antioch came out to hear the word of God and God can draw entire cities to Jesus?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 484

Jews Today



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

Acts 13:45

How did the Jews respond to the crowds coming to hear the word of the Lord? They were filled with jealousy.

The Jews at Pisidian Antioch saw the crowds coming to hear Paul and Barnabas proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Jews became filled with jealousy. They mounted an attack against Paul and Barnabas by contradicting the things Paul spoke. We know that Paul used the Scriptures of the Old Testament to prove that the Lord Jesus Christ was indeed Jesus of Nazareth.

The God-fearing proselytes in the synagogue were the product of Jews trying to convert Gentiles to Judaism. Jesus said that the Pharisees traveled around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and once converted, the Pharisees make him twice as much a son of hell as themselves. Therefore, some Jews went to extreme lengths to make converts, but they made them twice as much the son of hell as the Jews themselves.

Paul spoke at Damascus shortly after his salvation. He met a lot of opposition at the synagogue there and so was familiar with Jews opposing his proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blaspheming

1. **But**. How did the Jews respond to the crowds going to hear Paul and Barnabas? They were filled with jealousy.

2. **When**. The Scriptures make it plain that the jealousy began when they saw the crowds.

3. **Jews**. The Jews at the synagogue had not believed the message that Paul had preached regarding the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Crowds**. The crowds wanted to hear more about Jesus, but opposition arose inspired by the devil opposing the work of Christ.

5. **Jealousy**. The Jews felt jealousy because the newcomers immediately gained a large following, but the newcomers were only pointing to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

6. **Contradicting**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand jealous opponents will always contradict the word of God and oppose Jesus.

7. **Blaspheming**. We rejoice today because Jesus has the power to overcome all blaspheming and build His church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the opposition to the Gospel at Pisidian Antioch where the gospel was proclaimed to the Gentiles after the Jews rejected the Lord Jesus.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some people will be jealous when crowds want to hear the word of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for calling people, both Jews and Gentiles, to hear the word of God, become the children of God, and live in the family of God.**

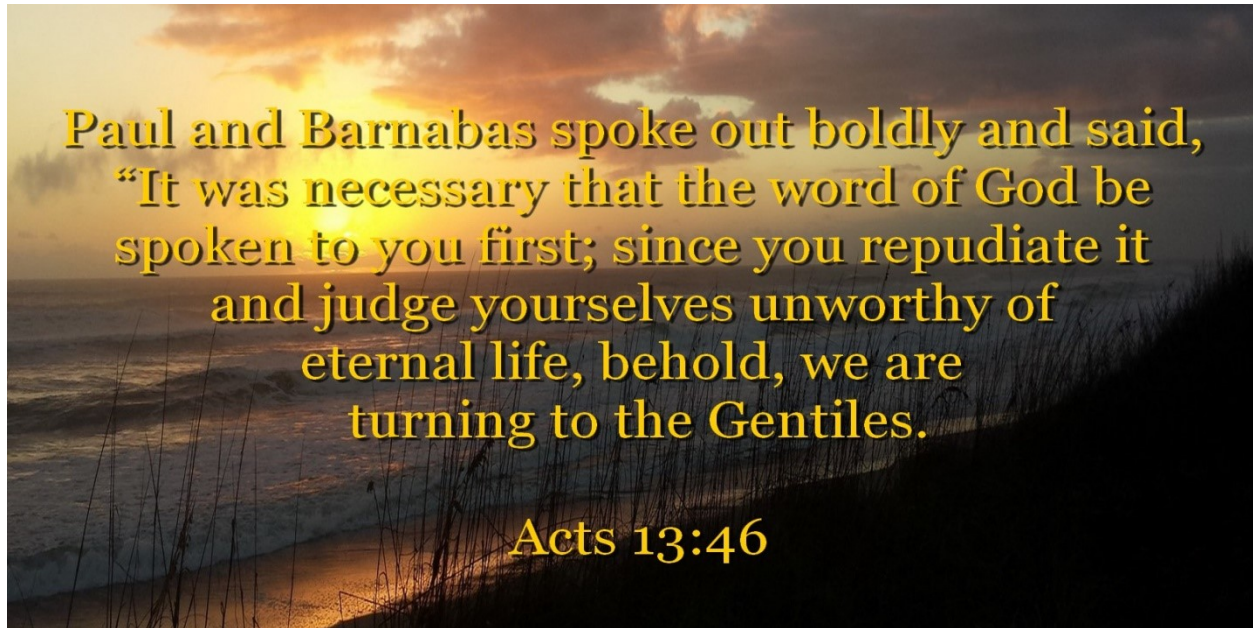
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in our salvation which God brought about through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of opposition. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting some people will be jealous as God moves crowds of people to come to hear the word of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 485

Repudiate Today



How did Paul and Barnabas respond to the Jews? They said that it was necessary that the word of God be spoken to the Jews first, but since they repudiated it and judged themselves unworthy of eternal life, they were turning to the Gentiles.

Some men came to Antioch and began proclaiming the word to both Jews and Gentiles. God blessed that outreach mightily and many Gentiles came into the church at Antioch. Meanwhile, Peter had seen at Caesarea the Gentiles receive the word of God and they were baptized with the Holy Spirit and water. Peter understood that the Gentiles had been cleansed by God because he earlier had a vision from God showing him the same.

At Pisidian Antioch Paul and Barnabas turned away from the Jews because of their jealousy and blasphemy and contradicting them. Paul and Barnabas began speaking to the Gentiles, having fulfilled the obligation to speak the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews first. God always loved the Gentiles and made provision for their salvation by faith in Jesus Christ all throughout the Old Testament. Now the time of the Gentiles had begun to

bear fruit and would increase. God had begun to graft the Gentiles into the church.

Unworthy

1. **Necessary**. Why were Paul and Barnabas turning to the Gentiles? They turned to the Gentiles only after they proclaimed the gospel to the Jews and they repudiated it.

2. **Word**. Paul and Barnabas always went to the synagogue first and proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews there first.

3. **First**. Jesus preached the gospel first to the Jews and so did His apostles.

4. **Repudiate**. Paul explained that since the Jews repudiated the word of God, Paul and Barnabas turned to the Gentiles.

5. **Judge**. Paul also explained that the Jews judge themselves unworthy of eternal life.

6. **Unworthy**. Living holy in the family of God means that some people will judge themselves unworthy of eternal life and God will send His messengers to other people.

7. **Turning**. We rejoice today because God directed His messengers first to the Jews, but upon their repudiation of the word of God, Paul and Barnabas told the Jews that they were turning to the Gentiles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that some people judge themselves unworthy of eternal life.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some people will repudiate the word of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that we did not repudiate the word of God nor judge ourselves unworthy of eternal life.**

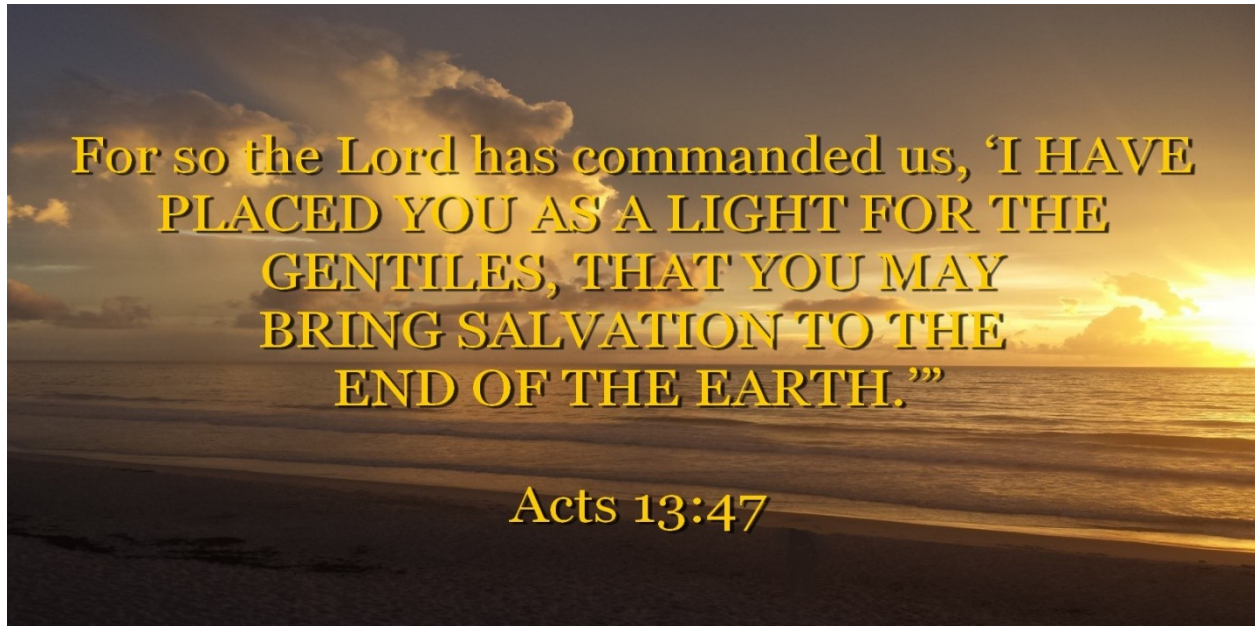
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that we turn away from people who repudiate the word of God and judge themselves unworthy of eternal life. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for His grace and mercy in opening our hearts to believe the word of God and receive the free gift of eternal life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 486

Commanded Today



Why did Paul and Barnabas turn to the Gentiles? Because the Lord had commanded that they would be a light of salvation.

In Pisidian Antioch Paul gave a message in the synagogue about Jesus Christ. Paul and Barnabas spent time talking to the people after the service ended. They begged Paul and Barnabas to return next week and proclaim to them more about the word of the Lord.

On the next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear Paul and Barnabas. Word had spread fast and interest grew rapidly. When the Jewish officials heard about what was going on, they became very jealous and opposed Paul and Barnabas, blaspheming the Name of God.

Paul informed them that they were turning to the Gentiles, because the Jews repudiated the word of God and deemed themselves unworthy of eternal life. Paul quoted a verse about the Lord sending His messengers to bring salvation to the end of the earth. That command covered bringing the Gospel particularly to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit had called Paul and

Barnabas to the work when they were in Antioch. Part of that work included being a light for the Gentiles.

Bring Salvation

1. **Lord**. What did the Lord command Paul and Barnabas to do? The Lord commanded them to be a light for the Gentiles.

2. **Commanded**. God commanded Paul and Barnabas as His messengers to spread the light of salvation.

3. **Us**. God commanded Paul and Barnabas to spread the light to the Gentiles and they wanted their opponents to know that fact.

4. **Light**. The Lord Jesus intended that Paul and Barnabas would spread the light of Jesus Christ.

5. **Gentiles**. The light of Jesus Christ would bring salvation to both Jews and Gentiles.

6. **Salvation**. Living holy in the family of God means that God directed His messengers to be a light for the Gentiles so that they would bring salvation to the end of the earth.

7. **Earth**. We rejoice today because God intended for messengers like Paul and Barnabas to keep spreading the light to the Gentiles by their physical presence there preaching salvation to the end of the earth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by obeying the command of God to be a light of salvation to the Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by bringing salvation to the end of the earth by taking the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ everywhere.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He made us a light for the Gentiles that we may bring salvation to the end of the earth.**

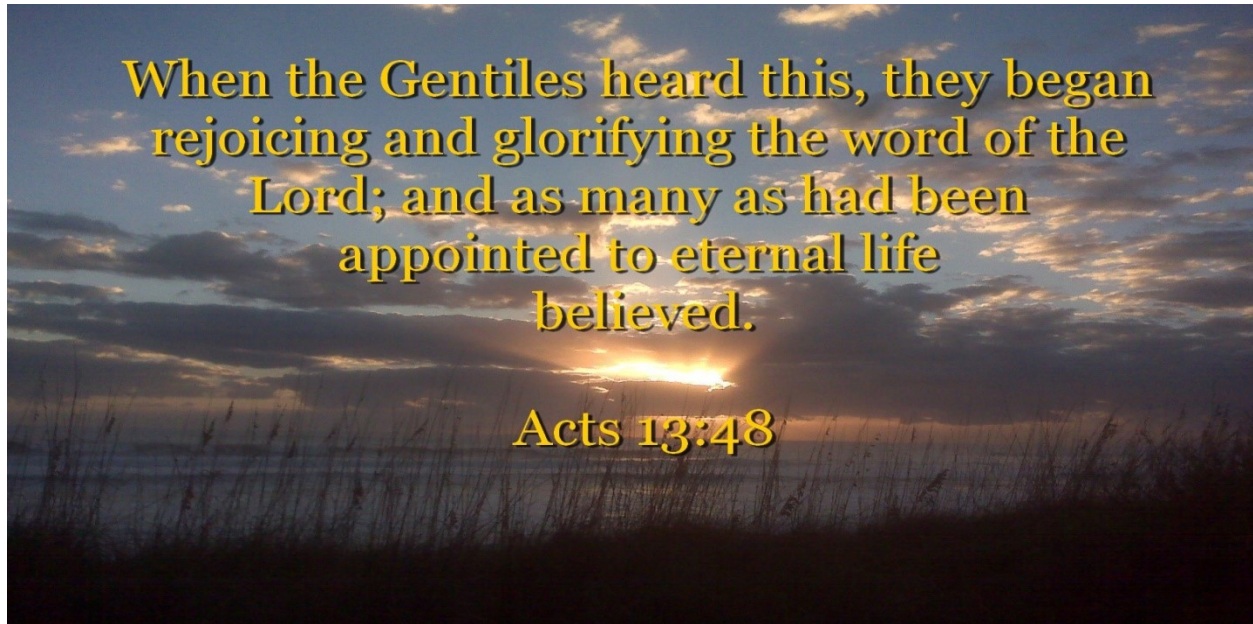
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that we are the light of salvation to the Gentiles and we bring salvation to the end of the earth. Will you live holy in the family of God today by recognizing that you are the light of salvation for the Gentiles?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 487

Gentiles Today



How did the Gentiles respond to Paul's declaration that he would preach the word of the Lord to them? They began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord.

God open the doors to the Gentiles. Paul quoted the verse showing that the Lord had sent His messengers to be a light of salvation for the Gentiles. The Lord intended that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ would be preached to the ends of the earth.

When the Gentiles heard that Paul was going to proclaim the word of God to them, they rejoiced and began glorifying the word of the Lord. As many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Throughout the Book of Acts we get a beautiful picture of how the love of God spread the gospel all over the world. God commissioned messengers to take the word of the Lord to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles. The Gentiles actively embraced the word of God with faith. Pursuant to God's plan, as many Gentiles as were appointed to eternal life believed. Heaven

rejoices even over one sinner that repents and how much more over many people believing for salvation?

Believed

1. **Gentiles**. What did the Gentiles do when they heard about God's command? They were rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord.
2. **Heard**. The Gentiles heard Paul and Barnabas say that God commanded them to be a light to the Gentiles.
3. **Rejoicing**. When they heard that great news, they began rejoicing.
4. **Glorifying**. They were also glorifying the word of the Lord.
5. **Word**. By the command of God, Paul and Barnabas brought the word of the Lord to Pisidian Antioch.
6. **Appointed**. Living holy in the family of God means that as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.
7. **Believed**. We rejoice today because God appoints people to eternal life and they believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ so as to be saved.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the joy of the Gentiles at Pisidian Antioch over the word of the Lord being proclaimed to them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the people appointed to salvation by God believe.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His majesty and grace in bringing the word of God to the Gentiles.**

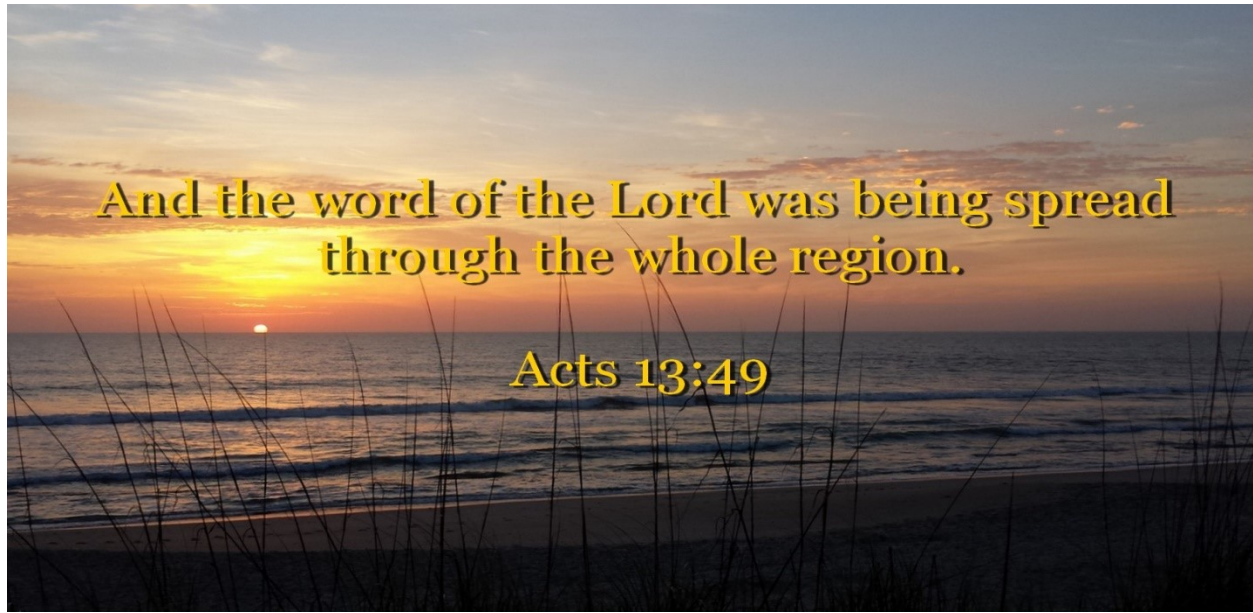
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that God appoints people to eternal life and they receive the gospel and believe. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for appointing people to eternal life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 488

Word Today



What happened to the word of the Lord? The word of the Lord was being spread to the whole region.

In the New Testament the apostles spread the word to new places. Then the converts became disciples who spread the word even farther. As people came to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they shared their new faith with other people and more people believed for salvation. New evangelists were constantly being added to the church.

Therefore, God's plan of evangelism did not rely solely upon apostles spreading the word. Every person saved by the grace of God now had the ability to share their faith and see others receive eternal life from Christ by faith alone. This process of multiplication characterizes the Book of Acts and sets the example for all future generations. The whole region around Pisidian Antioch heard the gospel.

Paul and Barnabas not only preached in the synagogues, but they also spent time making disciples. They became friends with the people converted to Christ and encouraged them to share their faith with other people.

Spread

1. **Word**. What happened to the word of the Lord? The word of the Lord was spread through the whole region.
2. **Lord**. The Lord takes His word and puts it on the lips of His messengers.
3. **Spread**. Those lips then speak the word of the Lord to the Gentiles.
4. **Through**. The word of the Lord spread from Pisidian Antioch into the surrounding region.
5. **The**. In fact, the word of the Lord spread through the whole region around Antioch.
6. **Whole**. Living holy in the family of God means that God can spread His word quickly through a whole region surrounding the city.
7. **Region**. We rejoice today because God has plans to spread His word not only to individual cities, but to whole regions and to the end of the earth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by spreading the word of the Lord to whole regions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God uses new converts to spread His word.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by receiving the word of God and spreading the word of God to the end of the earth.**

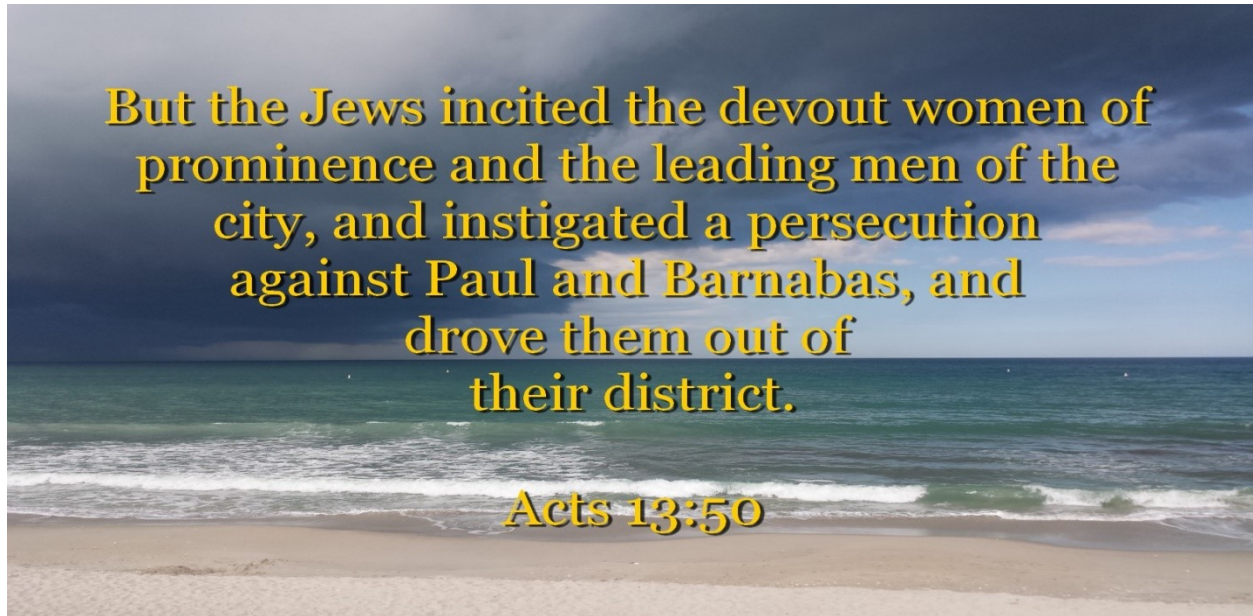
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that we were appointed to eternal life and received the word of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spreading the word of God through the whole region where you live?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 489

Incited Today



What persecution did Paul and Barnabas face? The Jews of Pisidian Antioch stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas.

The Jews repudiated the word of God and deemed themselves unworthy of eternal life. They did not stop there. They instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas. They started by inciting the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city to oppose Paul and Barnabas.

That persecution became so intense that it drove Paul and Barnabas out of their district. Just because Paul and Barnabas left does not mean that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ left. Many converts remained behind, ready to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As one door closed for Paul and Barnabas at Pisidian Antioch, God would certainly open new doors for them. The Gentiles had responded with great spiritual enthusiasm to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Jews of Pisidian Antioch stand is an example of how you can choose to oppose the word of God by instigating persecution using a few prominent people. To

escape persecution in the district of Pisidian Antioch, Paul and Barnabas moved on.

Persecution

1. **Jews**. How did the Jews drive Paul and Barnabas away? They incited prominent people to oppose the word of the Lord brought by Paul and Barnabas.

2. **Incited**. The Jews formed a plan to oppose the word of God and Paul and Barnabas by organizing people to persecute them.

3. **Women**. The Jews stirred up devout women of prominence to persecute Paul and Barnabas.

4. **Men**. Likewise, the Jews also incited the leading men of the city to oppose Paul and Barnabas.

5. **Instigated**. Having stirred up the men and women in prominent positions, the Jews instigated a persecution.

6. **Persecution**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand the opposition will instigate people to oppose the word of the Lord and bring persecution upon the messengers from God.

7. **Drove**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas moved on to new fields white for harvest. Sadly, the Jews at Pisidian Antioch instigated a persecution against them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews stirring up persecution at Pisidian Antioch.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that the jealousy of the Jews spurred them on to organize the leading folks of the city to spearhead a persecution against Paul and Barnabas and the word of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by trusting God to show us when it is time to move forward and leave persecution behind.**

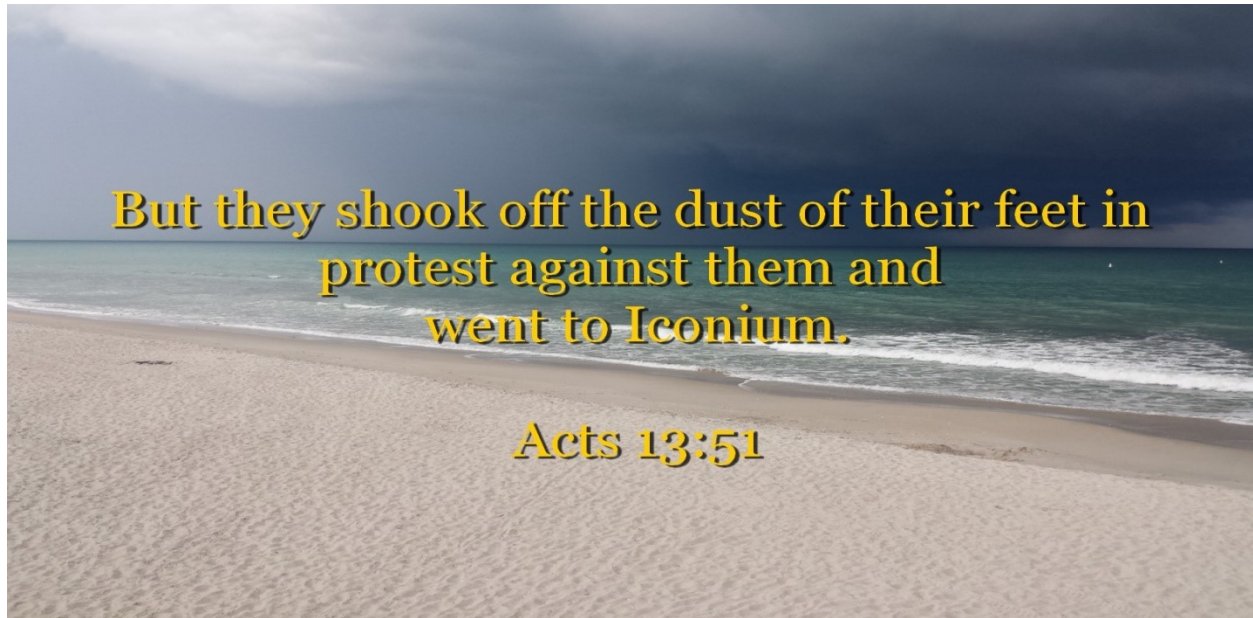
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by expecting that people will oppose the word of God and organize the opposition. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that persecution follows the spread of the gospel?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 490

Shook Off Today



What did Paul and Barnabas do as they left Pisidian Antioch? They shook the dust off their feet in protest against them and left.

Jesus trained His disciples to preach the kingdom of God in many cities of Israel. He sent them out two by two. They did not carry a bag or a staff or money, but relied solely upon the people of the city receiving them and caring for them. If the people in that city rejected the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His messengers, then the Lord Jesus directed His disciples to shake the dust off their feet as a witness against that city.

When Paul and Barnabas left Pisidian Antioch and that district, they shook the dust off of their feet just like the Lord Jesus had trained the twelve disciples during His earthly ministry. God provided a graphic testimony to the people in that area that God had departed from them. The Jews had polluted the minds of the people against the messengers of the Lord and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas were off to Iconium. God moved Paul and Barnabas to go to the synagogue first in the different cities they traveled to, but then they would also present the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

Protest

1. **They**. As Paul and Barnabas left Pisidian Antioch, what did they do? They shook the dust off their feet.

2. **Shook**. When they shook the dust off their feet, Paul and Barnabas declared that the city had repudiated the word of God, and deemed themselves unworthy of eternal life.

3. **Dust**. The dust was clinging to the feet of Paul and Barnabas, but the dust of Pisidian Antioch they left behind.

4. **Feet**. Paul and Barnabas used their feet to travel widely from place to place. Those feet got dusty, but Jesus had trained His disciples to use that dust as a witness against the cities that would not receive Jesus as Savior.

5. **Against**. Paul and Barnabas used the dust as a visible, tangible witness against the city of Pisidian Antioch.

6. **Them**. Living holy in the family of God means that God uses all kind of signs to communicate His displeasure with people who reject Jesus as Savior.

7. **Iconium**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas went to Iconium, a distance of about 93 miles. Historians tell us there was a paved Roman road connecting the cities.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Barnabas shaking the dust off their feet as they left Pisidian Antioch.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by testifying against people who reject the word of the Lord and repudiate the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for bringing messengers into our lives to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with people who live near the ends of the earth.**

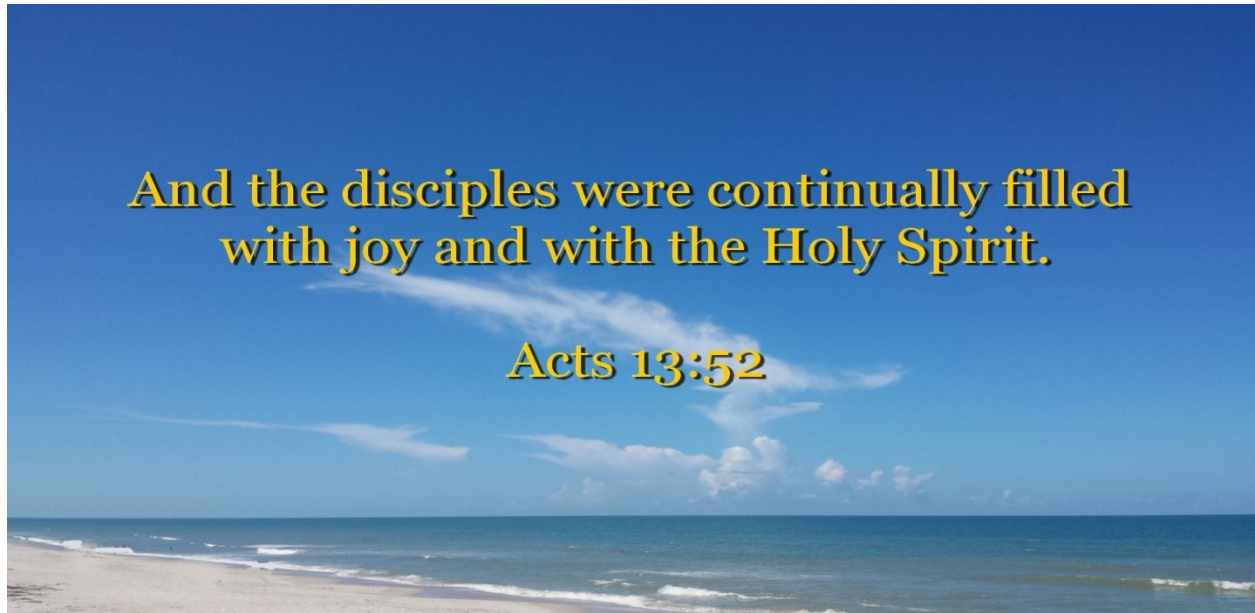
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the testimony of dust against the people of Pisidian Antioch. Will you live holy in the family of God today by testifying against people who reject Jesus as Savior and then moving on to the next city?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 491

Filled Today



What happened with the disciples? They were continually filled with the Holy Spirit.

At Pentecost following the ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit came down and filled the apostles. That event marked the moment of the prophecy of Jesus concerning the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus. Jesus then told the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit had come upon them.

The Book of Acts is a detailed record of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the early church. Starting at Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down filled the apostles gathered in Jerusalem. They performed marvelous works in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and with the power of the Holy Spirit working in them.

At Pentecost the apostles began to speak in foreign languages known to people in the audience. They spoke by the power of the Holy Spirit within them. The Holy Spirit provided tangible proof to people that these men were speaking from God. Indeed, they spoke of the great works of God.

At Pisidian Antioch Paul and Barnabas brought the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the people of the synagogue there. Opposition arose and they were driven out of town and out of the district. They rejoiced because they were full of the Holy Spirit, even though they had to leave the district and go to Iconium.

Joy

1. **Disciples**. As Paul and Barnabas left Pisidian Antioch, how did they feel? They were full of joy.

2. **Filled**. Paul and Barnabas were filled with joy when they left Pisidian Antioch, even though they were driven out by persecution. For them joy did not depend upon what others did to them, but rather the Holy Spirit's presence within them.

3. **Joy**. Joy filled Paul and Barnabas as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

4. **And**. The text makes it plain that they were filled not only with joy, but they were also filled with the Holy Spirit.

5. **The**. The Holy Spirit fills people and produces different emotions in them.

6. **Holy**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul and Barnabas rejoiced as they left Pisidian Antioch riding the wave of persecution.

7. **Spirit**. We rejoice today because the Holy Spirit filled them with joy because they had done God's will and people in Pisidian Antioch could turn to the way of the Lord Jesus Christ amidst much opposition.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon the Holy Spirit to fill us with joy even during difficult times.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking the Holy Spirit for producing joy in our lives.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God together for the joy that comes when the Holy Spirit fills us.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the Holy Spirit even as persecution rises against us. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit as He fills you during difficult times?

HALLELUJAH !

10

Jewish

Attacks Today

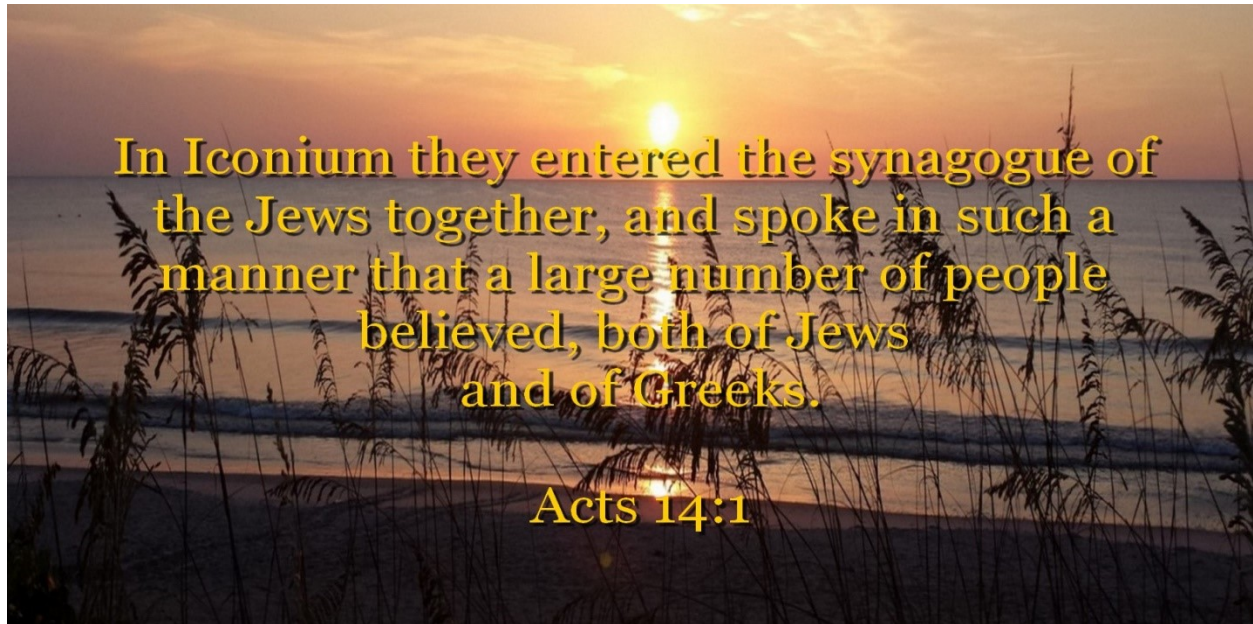
What attacks did Paul and Barnabas face after leaving Pisidian Antioch? After shaking the dust off of their feet at Pisidian Antioch, they traveled on to Iconium. There they entered the synagogue and a large number of both Jews and Greeks believed from their preaching. Then the Jews stirred up trouble. God granted that signs and wonders would be done by the apostles' hands, but the people were divided. Some people sided with the apostles and some people sided with the Jews. After an attempt was made to stone Paul and Barnabas by the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, they left and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe.

At Lystra, they healed a lame man. The crowds reacted by calling Barnabas, Zeus and Paul, Hermes. Of course, Paul and Barnabas objected and pointed them to Christ. The Jews from Antioch and Iconium won over the crowds and stoned Paul, leaving him for dead. With the disciples standing around him, Paul stood up and returned to the city. The next day Paul and Barnabas left for Derbe. They made many disciples there and then returned to Lystra and Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples there and appointing elders for them in every church.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 492

Iconium Today



What response to Paul and Barnabas receive in the synagogue at Iconium? A large number of people believed, both Jews and Greeks.

As Paul and Barnabas left Pisidian Antioch and the surrounding districts, they were filled with the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost in Jerusalem following the ascension of Christ, Jesus baptized them with the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in known languages to the people in the audience.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit happens at the moment of salvation when the Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in the saint. By loving obedience to Christ, the Holy Spirit fills saints. While the Holy Spirit will never leave the saint, saints are not always filled with the Holy Spirit. At times saints can even grieve the Holy Spirit.

God emphasized that Paul and Barnabas spoke in a manner that produced salvation. Paul and Barnabas brought the word of the Lord to the people in the synagogues and they believed what God said. They received

forgiveness of sins through the Lord Jesus Christ as they believed for salvation.

Believed

1. **Iconium**. When Paul and Barnabas arrived in Iconium, where did they go? They entered the synagogue of the Jews.

2. **Entered**. When they entered the synagogue of the Jews, they were fulfilling the obligation to give the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews first.

3. **Synagogue**. In the synagogue they began speaking about the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Spoken**. Having spoken the word of life to the people in the synagogue of the Jews, many people came to salvation in Christ.

5. **Large**. A large number of both Jews and Gentiles responded to the message of God.

6. **Jews**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas spoke to the people in the synagogue at Iconium and many people, including Jews, came to saving faith in Christ.

7. **Greeks**. We rejoice today because not only Jews responded to the message of God, but Greeks also believed in large numbers.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the word of God so that people hear and believe in Jesus Christ for salvation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by having faith that God will bless the ministry of His word so that people will be saved.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that God loves both Jews and Greeks and saves us both by the same Gospel.**

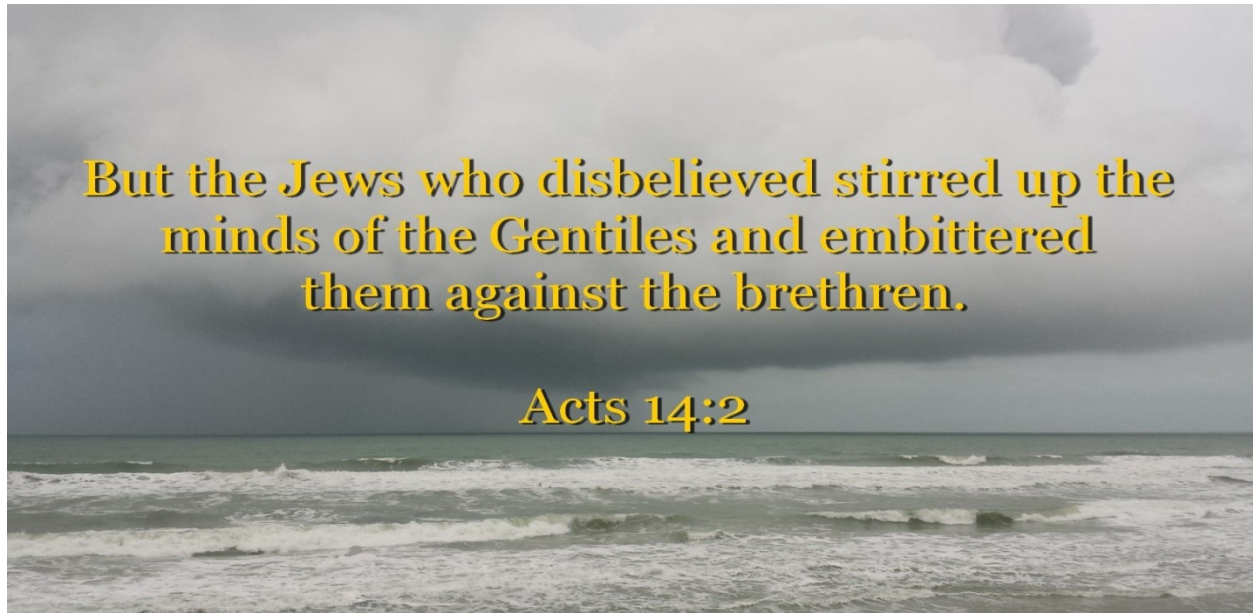
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in such a way that people believe. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming your faith to both Jews and Gentiles, expecting that God will open the hearts of some people to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 493

Disbelieved Today



What did the disbelieving Jews do? They stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren.

Paul and Barnabas experienced serious opposition at Pisidian Antioch. That opposition arose from Jews stirring up the prominent men and women who opposed the word of God. The persecution there intensified to the point that Paul and Barnabas left that district and moved on to Iconium.

Notice that the Jews stirred up opposition not just against Paul and Barnabas, but against all the brethren who believed. The Jews did not want anyone spreading the word of God in their city. This pattern of preaching and opposition continues to this day. The world hates Jesus without cause and hates everyone who spreads the word of God in truth and in love.

Notice also that the Jews stirred up the minds of the Gentiles. The evil forces strive to persuade people in their minds that the brethren hurt people. Saints understand the schemes of the devil and know that his goal will always be to silence the people who proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Embittered

1. **Jews**. Was everybody happy that many people believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation? The Jews who disbelieved were very unhappy.
2. **Disbelieved**. The Jews who disbelieved the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ formed a plan of opposition.
3. **Stirred**. They stirred up the minds of the Gentiles.
4. **Minds**. The disbelieving Jews targeted specifically the minds of the Gentiles, knowing that having won their minds, action would follow against the brethren.
5. **Gentiles**. The disbelieving Jews particularly targeted the Gentiles so that they would become embittered against the saints.
6. **Embittered**. Living holy in the family of God means that disbelieving people will always try to embitter others against the saints.
7. **Brethren**. We rejoice today because Jesus knows how to take care of the brethren and shield them from the attacks brought by embittered people.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting disbelievers to stir up the minds of people to oppose the saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that spiritual warfare includes embittering people against Jesus Christ in the family of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His compassionate care as we face bitter opposition.**

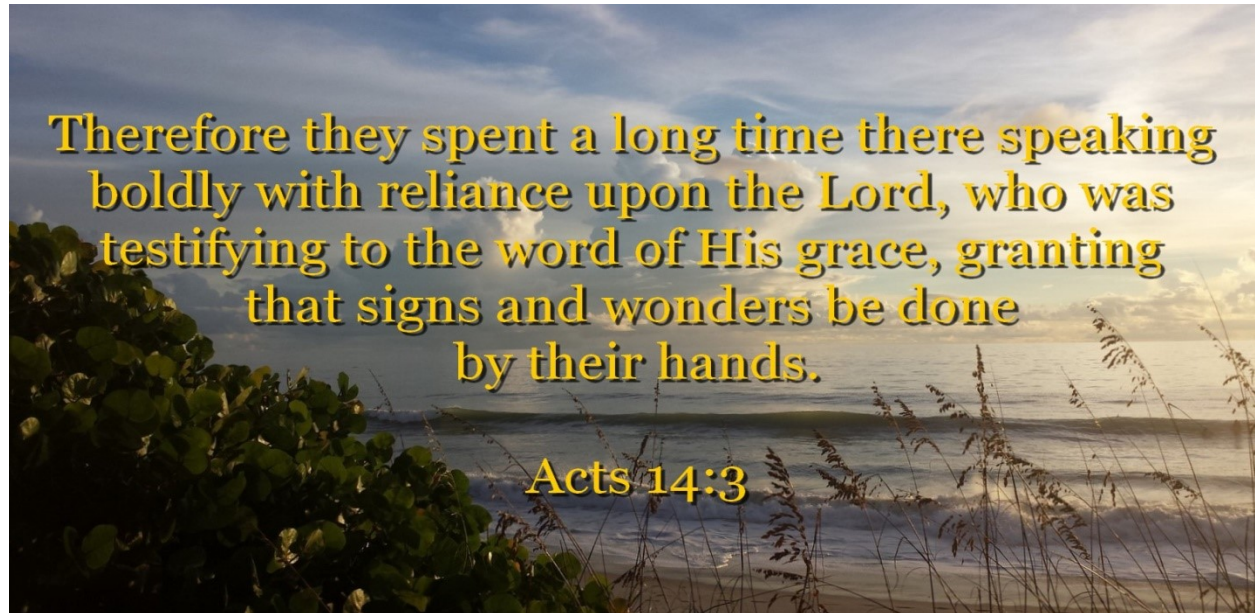
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing when we see opposition rising because it testifies to the power of God working right there. Will you live holy in the family of God today by expecting opposition when God works mightily among the people?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 494

Reliance Today



Why did Paul and Barnabas spend a long time in Iconium? They spent a long time there because of the opposition by the Jews to the many converts.

Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly at Iconium. They relied upon the Lord Jesus Christ, who was testifying to the word of His grace. In other words, as Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly about the Lord Jesus Christ, they relied entirely upon His grace.

Jesus also testified to the word of His grace. Therefore, we understand that the Holy Spirit was speaking through Paul and Barnabas and the Lord Jesus Christ was testifying through them to the word of His grace.

The Lord Jesus granted that signs and wonders would be done through the hands of Paul and Barnabas. The Lord Jesus provided tangible physical evidence of His presence and power and love. Many of the Jews and Greeks believed at Iconium. With many converts to Christ come many opponents to Christ. They stirred up people to oppose the word of God in the family of God.

Grace

1. **Therefore**. What happened because of the opposition? Paul and Barnabas spent more time in Iconium because of the opposition.
2. **They**. They were speaking boldly about the Lord Jesus Christ. The opposition did not slow them down or shut them up.
3. **Time**. Paul and Barnabas spent more time testifying to the word of God's grace.
4. **Speaking**. They were speaking about Jesus, building up the brethren and inviting others to turn to Christ for salvation.
5. **Grace**. Jesus testified to the word of His grace through Paul and Barnabas.
6. **Granting**. Living holy in the family of God means that Jesus also testified about His grace by granting signs and wonders to be done by Paul and Barnabas.
7. **Hands**. We rejoice today because Jesus did signs and wonders so that people would believe in Him for salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by counting upon Jesus to testify to the power and love of His grace.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing in Jesus for granting signs and wonders to be done in Iconium.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Jesus has all the power and deserves all the glory.**

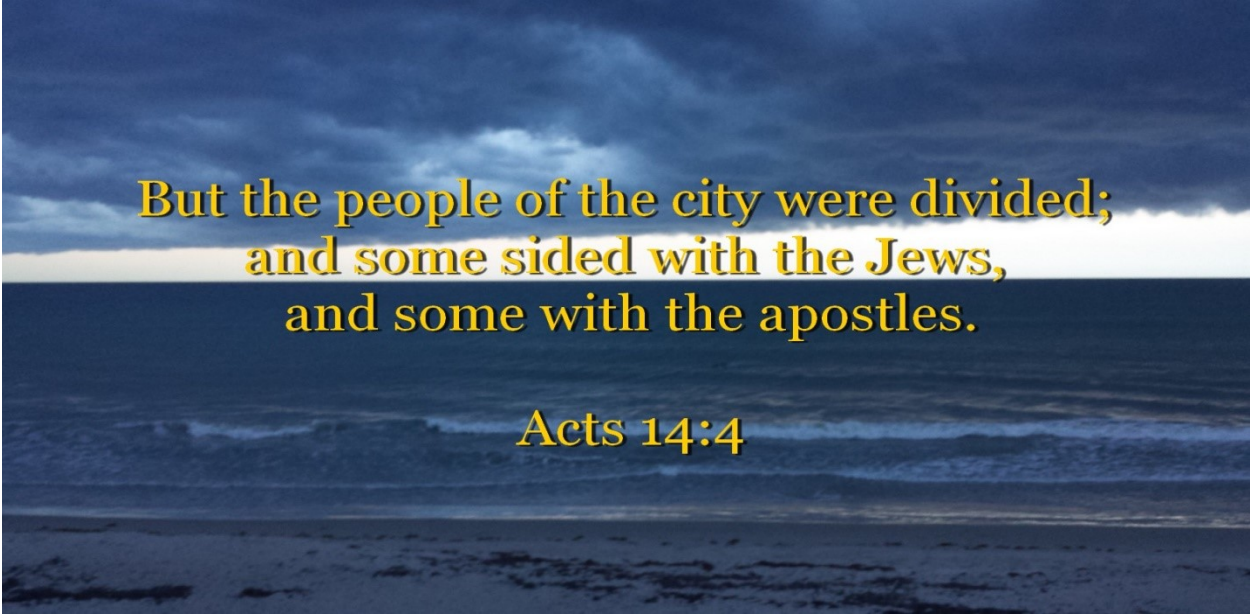
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by not backing down from opposition towards the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting Jesus to testify about His grace using our voices?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 495

People Today



But the people of the city were divided;
and some sided with the Jews,
and some with the apostles.

Acts 14:4

What happened in the city of Iconium? Some people sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.

The city of Iconium was divided between those people who supported the Jews and those people who supported the apostles. Whenever people believe the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, opposition will surely arise among the evil people. Iconium was not an exception to that rule. Although God provided signs and wonders through the hands of Paul and Barnabas, the Jews still were not convinced.

As Paul preached at Pisidian Antioch, the Old Testament prophet had warned that people would not believe and heed the warning of the prophets, even if someone described to them in detail the glories of Christ and His resurrection. The believers at Iconium had great fellowship with one another because many believed. They were spreading the Gospel so that others heard about it. As the number of saints increased, so did the division in the city. Paul and Barnabas came to Iconium filled with the Holy Spirit and Jesus

testified to His grace by working signs and wonders through the hands of Paul and Barnabas for all of Iconium to see.

Divided

1. **People**. What happened after Paul and Barnabas worked signs and wonders by the power of Jesus Christ? The city of Iconium divided into two groups.

2. **City**. Paul and Barnabas came to Iconium to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. **Divided**. Opposition arose in the city divided into the two groups along religious lines.

4. **Some**. Some people went with the Jews.

5. **Jews**. The Jews were opposed to the work of Paul and Barnabas, who were also Jews who received the Jewish Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth.

6. **Some**. Living holy in the family of God means that some people believed Paul and Barnabas.

7. **Apostles**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas were apostles appointed by God so that people appointed by God to salvation would believe through their ministry.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by expecting that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will divide cities and families.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by continuing to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ even after divisions occur.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that the cross of Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God to us, but foolishness to those who are perishing.**

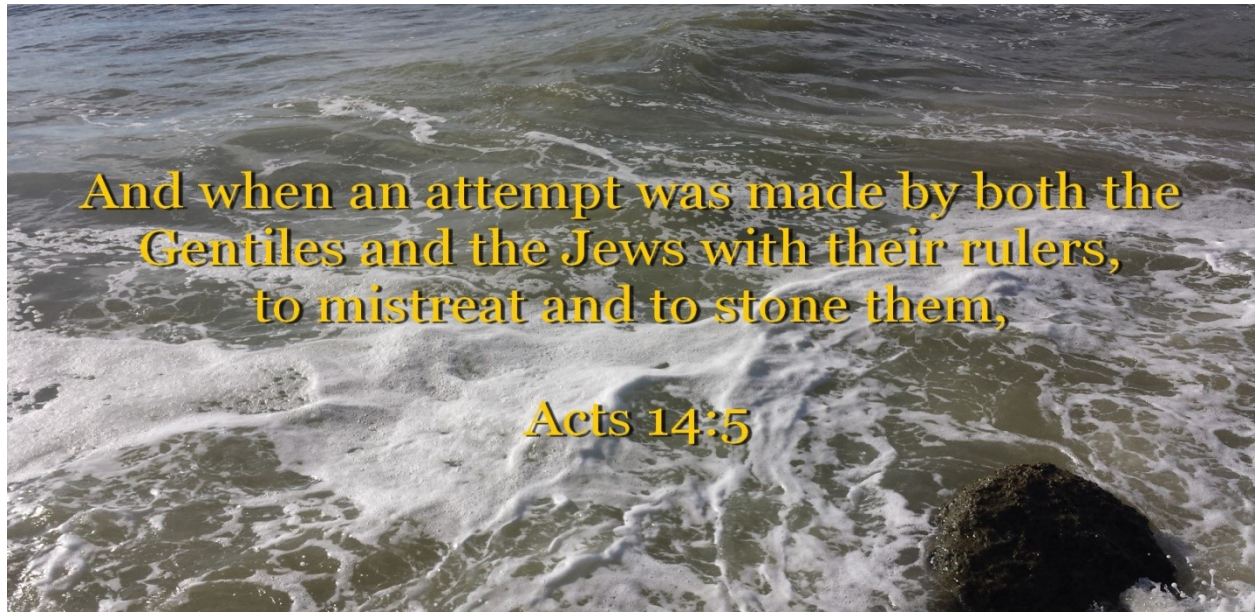
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His grace that opens our eyes so that we no longer oppose Christ, but live in His love. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the divisions at Iconium because of the preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 496

Attempt Today



Who tried to stone Paul and Barnabas? Both the Jews and the Gentiles with their rulers tried to stone them.

Paul and Barnabas proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the synagogue at Iconium. A large number of people, both Jews and Greeks, believed in the Gospel for salvation. The disbelieving Jews stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren. The city became divided.

Paul and Barnabas spent a long time there speaking boldly about the Lord as they testified to the word of His grace. He also granted that signs and wonders would take place through the hands of Paul and Barnabas.

An attempt was made to mistreat and stone Paul and Barnabas. Both the Jews and the Gentiles, along with their rulers, were part of the attempt on the lives of Paul and Barnabas.

Paul and Barnabas were both familiar with persecution of the church. Paul himself had led the persecution against the church. Apparently

Barnabas was in Jerusalem during the persecution starting after the death of Stephen.

Mistreat

1. **When**. What happened when the Jews and Gentiles formed plans against Paul and Barnabas? God knew all about those plans.

2. **Attempt**. Evil forces often scheme to harm or kill saints spreading the word of God.

3. **Both**. Both Jews and Gentiles got together to make the attempt upon the lives of Paul and Barnabas.

4. **Gentiles**. The Gentiles in Iconium were stirred up by the Jews.

5. **Jews**. The Jews were stirred up in the synagogue when Paul and Barnabas spoke to them.

6. **Leaders**. Living holy in the family of God means that both Jews and Gentiles with their leaders can form murderous plots against saints spreading the word of God.

7. **Stone**. We rejoice today because God knew the scheme by both Jews and Gentiles, with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone the saints.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for knowing the schemes of evil men to persecute the saints.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking heed to the danger of schemes against the saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by understanding that the saints who spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ will face organized persecution.**

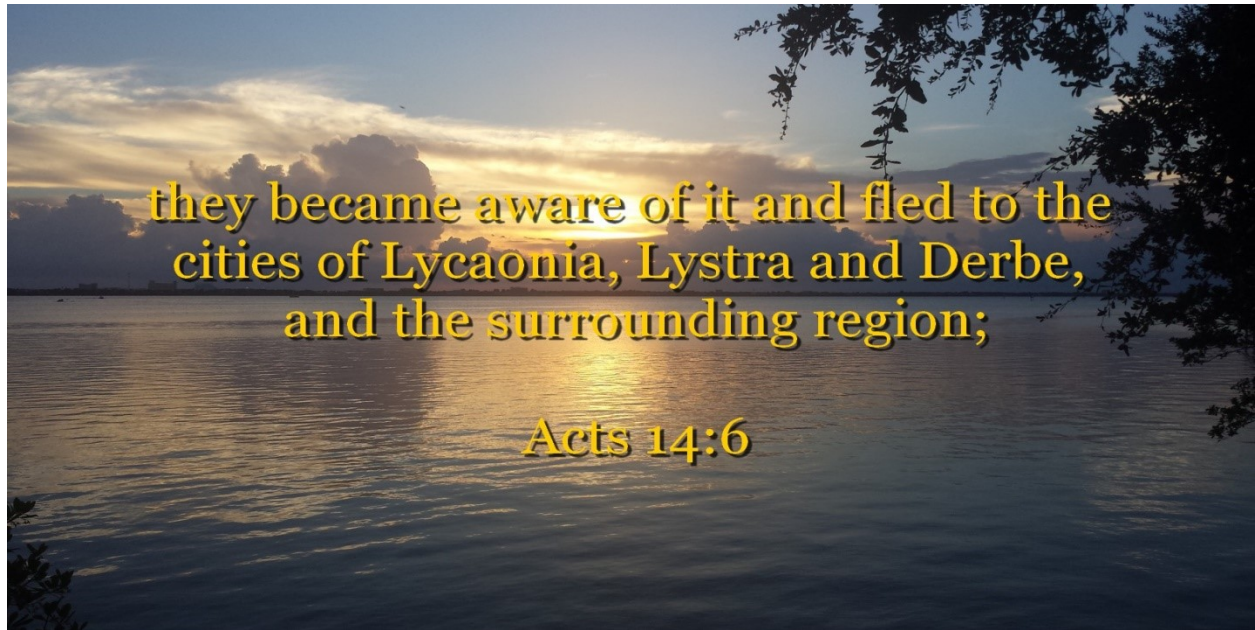
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord Jesus Christ that He knows about every evil scheme. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praying for saints who spread the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 497

Aware Today



What happened when Paul and Barnabas heard about the attempt on their lives? They fled from Iconium.

When Paul and Barnabas learned about the Jews and Gentiles, along with their rulers, planning to mistreat and stone them, they left the city of Iconium. They left behind many people who would turn to the Lord for salvation.

Paul and Barnabas fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lycaonia and Derbe. Paul and Barnabas had been commissioned in Antioch to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They went first to the island of Cyprus and preached there and then they went up to Pisidian Antioch. From Pisidian Antioch they went to Iconium. Paul and Barnabas had left Pisidian Antioch and Iconium because persecution intensified in both places against them.

Following a pattern, persecution intensified in one place so that the believers fled from it and took the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to new

places, often leaving behind converts. In some places those converts suffered persecution for their faith, even after the missionaries had left the city.

Fled

1. **They**. What is the difference between fleeing and quitting? Paul and Barnabas did not quit the ministry; they fled to new lands to continue the ministry there.

2. **Became**. Paul and Barnabas became aware of the scheme against them and Iconium.

3. **Aware**. Having become aware of the scheme against him, Paul and Barnabas took heed.

4. **Fled**. At times God commands saints to flee from persecution.

5. **Cities**. Paul and Barnabas went to cities in a new region.

6. **Lycaonia**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas went to the region north of the Taurus Mountains in modern Turkey.

7. **District**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas expanded their ministry to a new district because they fled persecution in Iconium.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by fleeing persecution.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by moving to new districts as God delivers us from persecution.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by heeding the leading of God to escape persecution.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by following the leading of God to escape persecution in one place so that we may proclaim the gospel in another place. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to people in a new place who want to hear from God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 498

Continued Today



What did Paul and Barnabas do in the new cities? They did the same thing they did previously in the other cities by proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas fled before persecution. At times they would even shake the dust off their feet in testimony against the people who rejected them, just as the Lord Jesus had instructed His disciples to shake the dust off of their feet from the cities who rejected those disciples.

Jesus did not require His disciples to die on the spot when people rejected His love and His message of salvation. Instead, Jesus commanded them to move on to new ground and new people.

The history of the Christian church shows that persecution in one place led to the proclamation of the Gospel in new places. The church grew as believers scattered under the pressure of persecution. So often the persecution arose from the Jews, but sometimes Gentiles started the persecution for religious or economic reasons. Jesus said if they hated Him without cause, then the world would hate His children also.

Preach

1. **And**. What did Paul and Barnabas do after leaving Iconium? They continued right on preaching the Gospel.
2. **There**. When they arrived in Lycaonia, they continued preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. **Preach**. They continued to preach the same message they had preached in Cyprus and Pisidian Antioch about Jesus Christ.
4. **Continued**. They continued without quitting.
5. **Preach**. Paul and Barnabas traveled from place to place in order to preach the Gospel.
6. **The**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas fled persecution in Iconium to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the district of Lycaonia.
7. **Gospel**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas did not quit preaching the Gospel, even after facing stiff opposition.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by never quitting the ministry God called us to do for Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by fleeing persecution but never quitting the ministry.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by enjoying the power of God to help us escape persecution so that we may do His will elsewhere.**

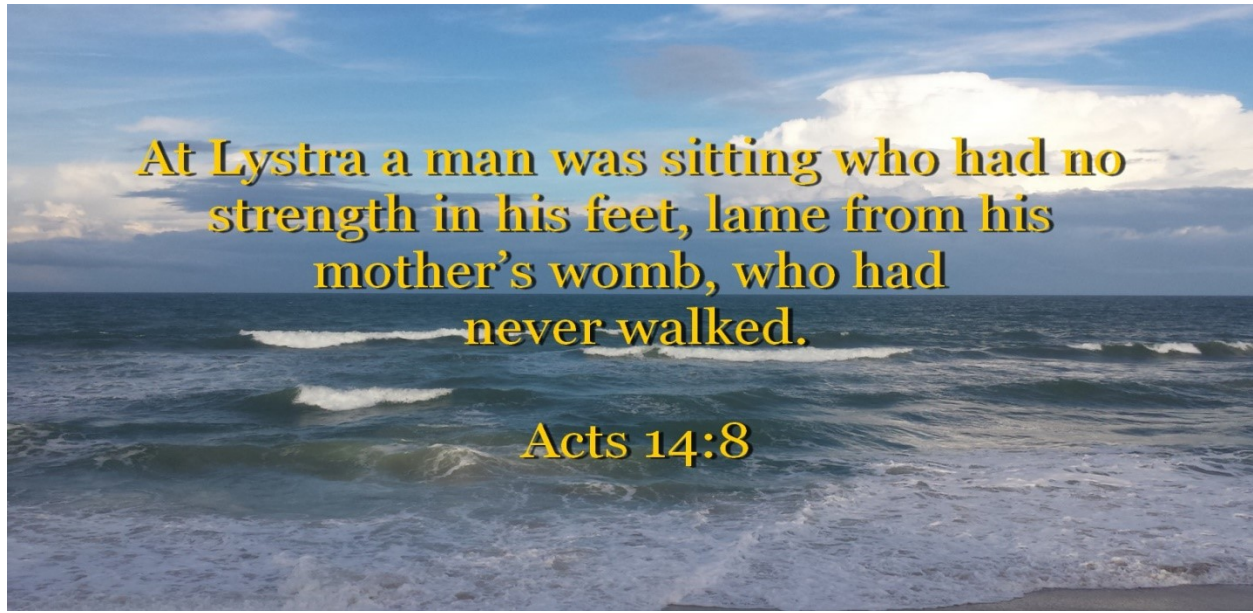
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never quitting the ministry God has given to us, but fleeing persecution as the need arises. Will you live holy in the family of God today by continuing to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as God moves you to new places and new people?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 499

Lame Today



Who did Paul and Barnabas meet in Lycaonia? They met a man there who had never walked.

Paul and Barnabas met the man who was sitting with no strength in his feet. He had been lame from his mother's womb and never walked. God sent Paul and Barnabas to him to manifest the love of God in him.

Jesus, in Peter and John, had healed people who could not walk. Acts also contains the story about the Beautiful Beggar. The Lord Jesus used Peter and John to heal the Beautiful Beggar. The religious Council in Jerusalem mounted fierce opposition against the apostles.

Likewise, Jesus had healed a paralytic and also for gave his sins. The Pharisees thought Jesus had blasphemed for saying that He could forgive sins. Jesus proved He had the authority on earth to forgive sins by commanding the paralytic to rise up and walk. When the man walked and picked up his pallet, the Jews objected that he was breaking the Sabbath.

Jesus healed all kinds of people. He also granted that signs and wonders would be done through the Peter, Paul and Barnabas, among others. God confirmed the authority of those men by providing signs confirming that God had sent them. Even so, many people witnessed the signs, but still rejected Jesus and His message of salvation to their own destruction.

Never Walked

1. **Lycaonia**. Who did Paul and Barnabas meet in Lycaonia? They met Man Born Lamé.

2. **Man**. Man Born Lamé was sitting because he could not stand. He lacked strength in his feet.

3. **Lamé**. He had been lame and sitting for many years.

4. **Womb**. He had come from his mother's womb lame.

5. **Who**. Man Born Lamé had not walked in his entire lifetime.

6. **Never**. Living holy in the family of God means that some people who are born lame walked by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. **Walked**. We rejoice today because Man Born Lamé had faith for healing and Paul noticed that faith.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Man Born Lamé sitting without strength in his feet for many years.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the compassion of God for people with physical problems.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for the power to raise the lame and heal the sick.**

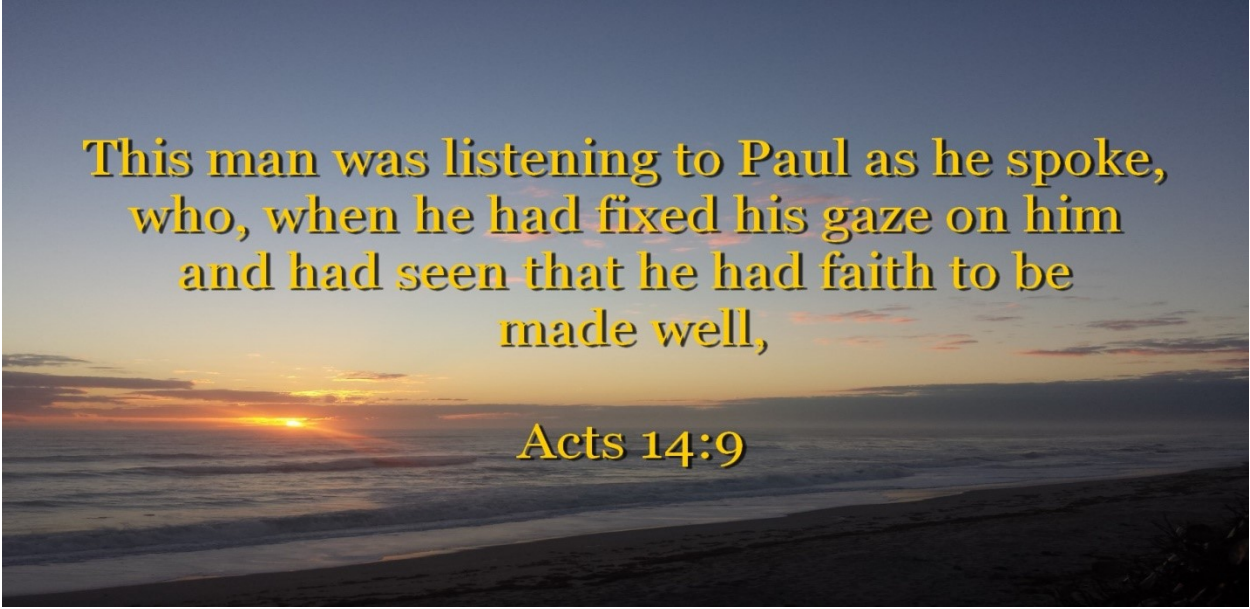
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Man Born Lamé sitting without strengthened his feet when Paul saw his faith for healing. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to help you with your physical problems?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 500

Seen Today



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

Acts 14:9

When Paul fixed his gaze on Man Born Lane, what did Paul see? Paul saw that he had faith to be made well.

Peter had fixed his gaze upon the Beautiful Beggar in Jerusalem. He commanded the man to rise up and walk and he did so. Many people witnessed that healing and came to faith. It also stirred up tremendous problems with the religious Council and the Jews.

Jesus healed people before and after His resurrection from the dead. He made the lame walk and the blind see and the dumb to speak. Jesus had unlimited power to heal people and the cast out demons.

When Paul fixed his gaze upon Man Born Lane, he saw his faith to be healed. In many cases in Scripture, we do not read about faith before healing. In this case faith played an important role in the healing.

Paul had the spiritual ability to see faith, the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen. Seeing Man Born Lane's faith, Paul

knew that God would use His power to heal Man Born Lamé. Furthermore, the spiritual effect of that healing would have broad spiritual implications.

Faith

1. **Man**. What was Man Born Lamé doing? He was listening to Paul.
2. **Listening**. He listened to the words Paul spoke to him, giving him his attention.
3. **Paul**. Paul had come to Lystra to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and God granted that signs would be worked through the hands of Paul and Barnabas.
4. **Spoke**. Paul spoke directly to Man Born Lamé.
5. **Fixed**. Paul fixed his gaze upon Man Born Lamé.
6. **Gaze**. Living holy in the family of God means that, like Peter before him, Paul fixed his gaze upon a man needing to be healed so that he could walk for the first time.
7. **Faith**. We rejoice today because Man Born Lamé had faith to be healed by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Man Born Lamé listening to Paul as he spoke to him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for His compassion upon people like Man Born Lamé.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His goodness and mercy upon people who cannot walk.**

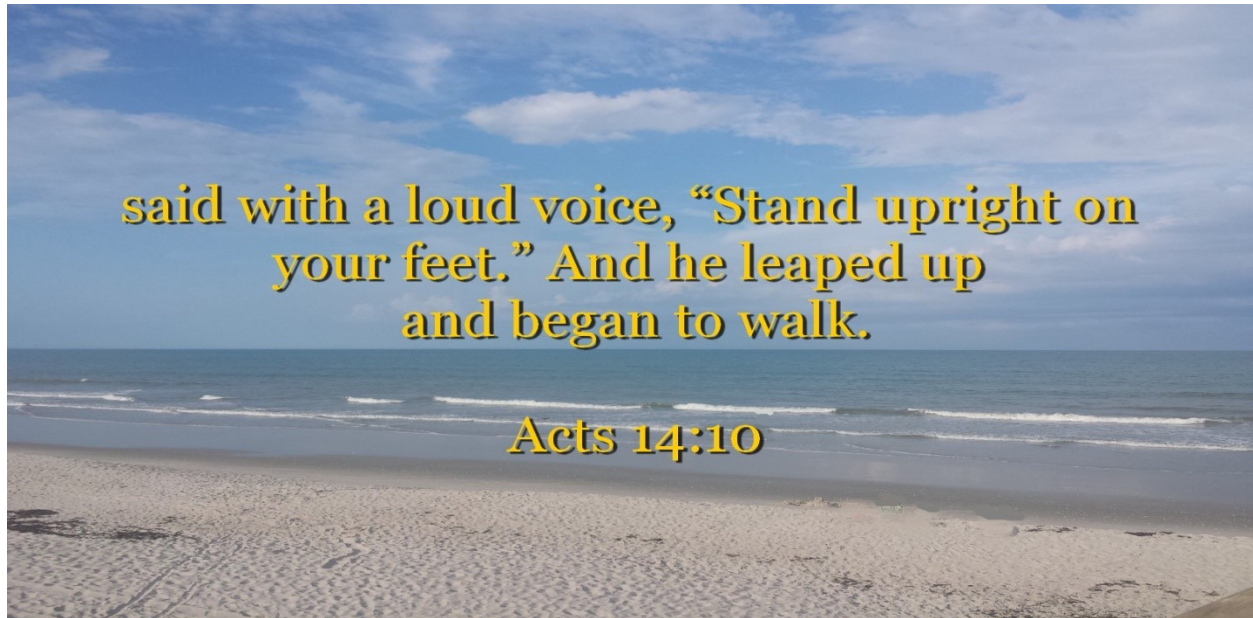
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that He has the power and love to help people walk who never walked before. Will you live holy in the family of God today by counting upon God to help you with your physical problems?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 501

Stand Today



What did Paul say to Man Born Lamé? Paul commanded him to stand upright on his feet.

At Iconium Paul and Barnabas met Man Born Lamé who was lame from birth. Paul fixed his gaze upon him and saw that he had faith for healing. The power of the Lord Jesus Christ was with Paul and Barnabas for healing and Paul commanded him to stand up on his feet. He had never stood up on his feet and so everyone would know that Jesus Christ had done this great work.

Man Born Lamé leaped up and began to walk. The power of Jesus Christ suddenly became evident to everyone witnessing the event. Works of powers played a crucial role in the New Testament ministry. Often when the apostles and other messengers for God went into new areas spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, God provided power to work signs and wonders.

God loved the population of people in the cities and sent messengers to proclaim salvation to them. Paul and Barnabas proclaimed salvation to the

Jews first and then to the Gentiles. The Gospel of Jesus Christ divided cities right down the middle. Some people followed the Jews and some people Paul of the apostles.

Walk

1. **Loud**. What did Paul do about Man Born Lamé? Paul spoke with a loud voice.

2. **Voice**. Paul raised his voice so that everyone around would hear what was going on and gain their attention.

3. **Stand**. Paul commanded Man Born Lamé to stand up in the hearing and sight of all the people.

4. **Upright**. The feet of Man Born Lamé were never strong enough to support him.

5. **Feet**. From his mother's womb his feet had always been a problem.

6. **Leaped**. Living holy in the family of God means that Man Born Lamé leaped to his feet at the command of Paul in front of everyone.

7. **Walk**. We rejoice today because the power of the Lord Jesus Christ healed Man Born Lamé publicly so that everyone would take notice of what happened.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the healing of Man Born Lam.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God for doing signs and wonders through the hands of the apostles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His kindness in healing people who have been lame since birth.**

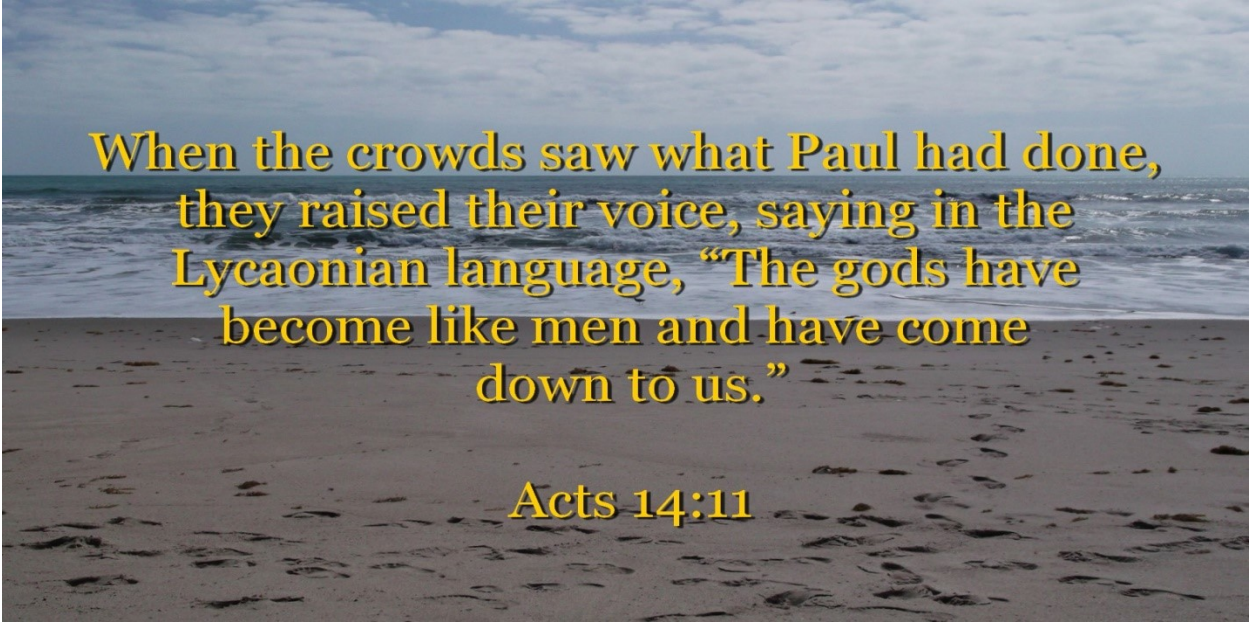
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His power to heal the lame, blind, deaf, and dumb. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His loving power to heal people?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 502

Crowds Today



When the crowds 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.”

Acts 14:11

How did the crowds respond to the healing of Man Born Lamé? The people concluded that the gods had come down and become like men.

The Lord Jesus Christ worked a great healing through Paul commanding Man Born Lamé to stand up and walk. The idolaters in the city of Lystra concluded that their gods had come down and become like men and walked among them.

In fact, the only true God sent Jesus of Nazareth, born of a virgin, to dwell among men and He was God in the flesh. He came to His own, but they did not receive Him. They crucified Him. Paul and Barnabas brought the message of the Lord Jesus Christ as resurrected Savior.

When King Herod heard the crowds cheering that he had the voice of a god and not a man, he accepted their worship and glory. Because he did not give the glory to God, the Lord struck him and he died of worms. God does not tolerate anyone who tries to share the glory of God, because God shares His glory with no one. Paul and Barnabas heard the crowds claiming that

they were gods who had come from heaven and were now dwelling among men.

Saw

1. **Crowds**. What was the crowd saying? They were saying that Paul and Barnabas were gods.

2. **Saw**. The crowd saw what Paul had done.

3. **Paul**. Paul had spoken and Man Born Lamé stood on his feet for the first time in his life in view of everybody.

4. **Voice**. In their Lycaonian language, they started talking about their gods.

5. **Gods**. The crowd thought that their gods had come down to them.

6. **Men**. Living holy in the family of God means that we understand that some people ascribed the works of God to the works of their gods, thinking that their gods have become men.

7. **Down**. We rejoice today because Jesus, the Son of God, came down from heaven and dwelt among men. Although the crowds thought their gods had come down to earth, the one true God had actually sent His messengers to work a miracle before their very eyes.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that some people think their gods came down from heaven.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by expecting that some people will think their gods have become men and walk among people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by believing the Scriptures and knowing that the one true God sent Jesus Christ to become a man and walk among men.**

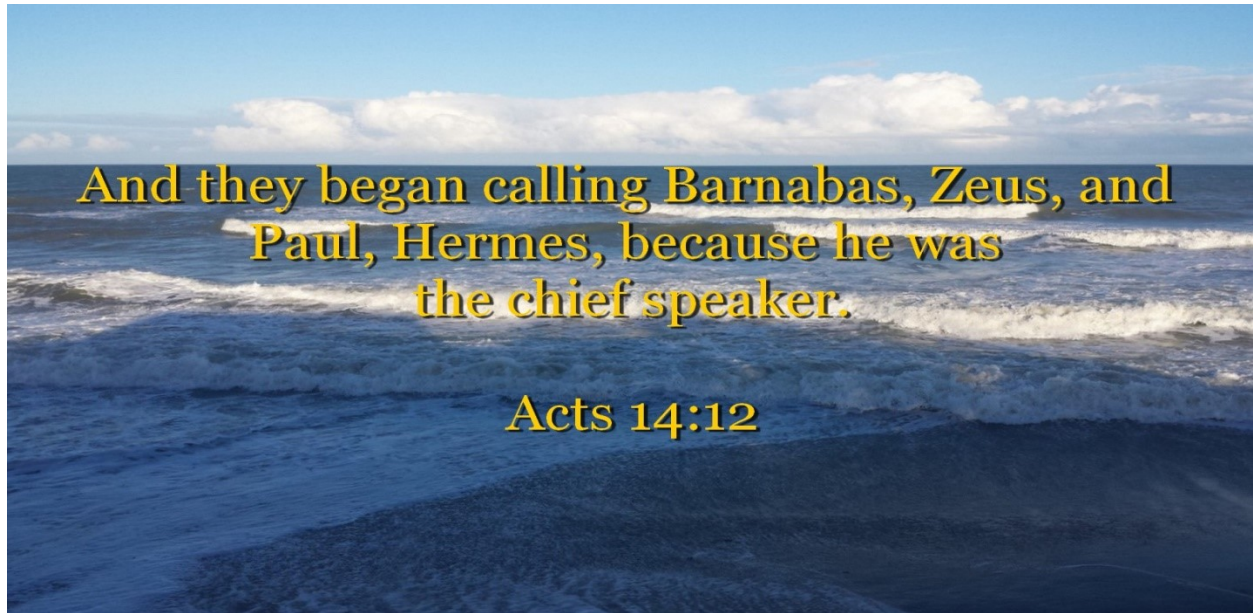
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for sending the Son of God to take flesh and dwell among men. Will you live holy in the family of God today by never accepting the worship of humans?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 503

Paul Today



What names did the people call Barnabas and Paul? They called Barnabas, Zeus and Paul, Hermes.

The people at Lystra were idolaters. They worshiped Zeus and Hermes as part of the Greek pantheon. They called Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. They called Barnabas, Zeus, because he was the older of the two.

The people at Lystra came to all the wrong conclusions about what they had witnessed. The Lord Jesus Christ had worked a great miracle through Paul and everyone knew about the miracle. The devil frequently works to hinder, delay and defraud people when they see the miracles of God. The devil never wants people to hear the Gospel. If they hear the Gospel, he does not want them to understand it or believe it. In this case, the devil sought to attribute the work of the Lord Jesus to idols.

Paul and Barnabas witnessed many great things in their ministry and travels for Christ. The people at Lystra, steeped in Greek idolatry and

mythology, would have to make a choice about serving dead and mute idols, or turning by faith to the living God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Speaker

1. **They**. What did the crowd say about Zeus and Hermes?
2. **Calling**. The crowd started calling Paul and Barnabas by the names of Greek gods.
3. **Barnabas**. The crowd called Barnabas Zeus.
4. **Zeus**. Zeus was the chief god of the Greek pantheon.
5. **Paul**. The crowd called Paul Hermes.
6. **Hermes**. Living holy in the family of God means that the crowd thought Paul was the herald of the gods and called him Hermes.
7. **Speaker**. We rejoice today because Paul was the chief speaker, but he was not Hermes or any other god.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by never calling anyone a god, because there is only one true God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that idolaters confuse their gods with men.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping the one true God and no other gods.**

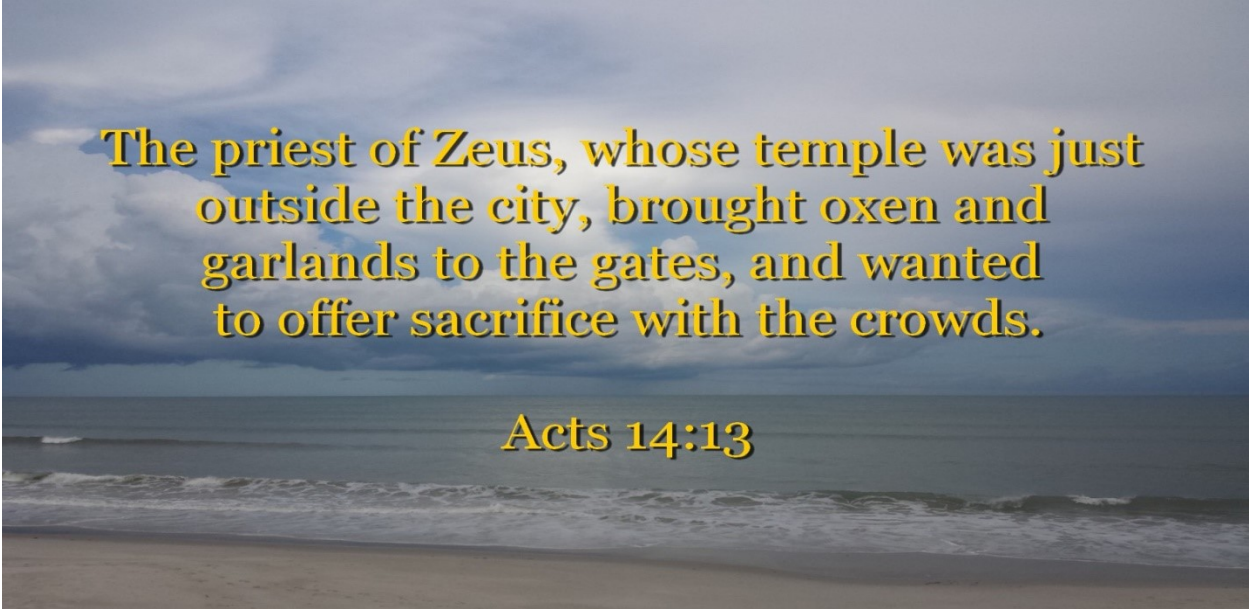
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for sending His Son to live among men, die on the cross, and be resurrected so that we can be forgiven by faith. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising Jesus for taking flesh and living among men and giving us salvation bought with His blood and guaranteed by His resurrection?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 504

Priest Today



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.

Acts 14:13

What did the priest of Zeus do? He brought oxen and garlands so the crowds could offer sacrifices.

Paul and Barnabas did not bring the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into a spiritual vacuum. The people of Lystra were already under the influence of very evil people and supernatural forces. They worshiped Zeus and the Greek pantheon.

The priest of Zeus had a temple just outside of Lystra. He wanted to promote the worship of Zeus among the people. Therefore, he saw the opportunity to pervert the miracle of healing for Man Born Lam. Zeus had never worked such miracles and could not work such miracles because he was a false god.

The priest of Zeus brought oxen and garlands to the gates of the city. He intended that the people offer sacrifices to Zeus because of the miracle. Of course, Zeus, being no god at all, had no role in the healing of Man Born Lam. Paul and Barnabas had a terrific opportunity to explain to the crowd that the Lord Jesus Christ had healed Man Born Lam.

Offer

1. **Priest**. Why did the priest of Zeus bring oxen to the city? He brought oxen so that the people could sacrifice them to their gods.

2. **Oxen**. The priest intended to offer the oxen to Zeus and the other gods on behalf of the people of Lystra.

3. **Garlands**. The priest of Zeus also brought garlands, a wreath of flowers and leaves, for decoration.

4. **Gates**. The priest came to the gates with the animals ready for sacrifice.

5. **Wanted**. The priest wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

6. **Sacrifice**. Living holy in the family of God means that the priests of false gods offer sacrifices on behalf of people, leading them in idolatry.

7. **Crowds**. We rejoice today because Jesus sent Paul and Barnabas to preach the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ to the crowds of Lystra, although those crowds apparently were used to sacrificing to the Greek gods, who are no gods at all.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sacrifice of Jesus that paid for the sins of the whole world.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping Jesus Christ, the only God who has taken flesh and lived among men.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for sending Paul and Barnabas to the idolaters of Lystra so that they could hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and turn to the living God and away from idols.**

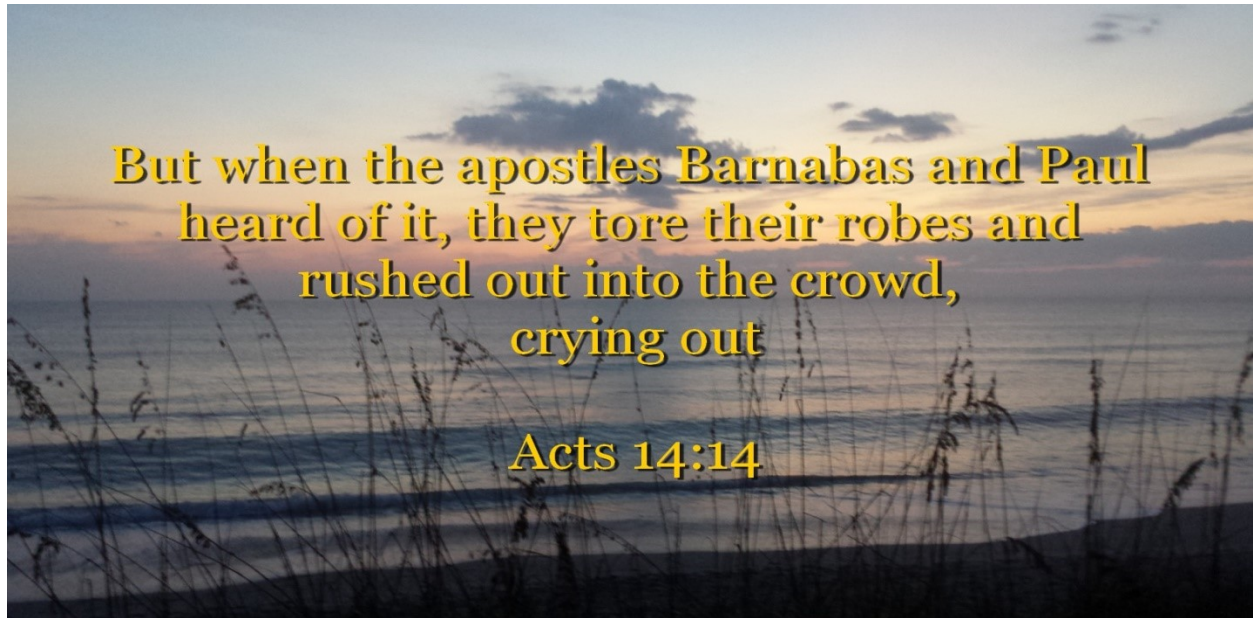
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping the one God Who sacrificed His only Son so that we may have eternal life in Him by grace through faith. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that idolaters love to sacrifice to their gods because they never knew Jesus Christ as Savior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 505

Apostles Today



How did Paul and Barnabas react to the idolaters? When Paul and Barnabas heard of it, they tore their robes.

The priest of Zeus was coming with garlands and oxen for sacrifice. He intended for Zeus to claim credit for the great miracle. When news of the priest coming to town for sacrifice came to the ears of Paul and Barnabas, they tore their robes to show their absolute displeasure.

Paul and Barnabas had not come to Lystra to have the people turn to idols because of the miracles they worked. They were not going to allow a priest of Zeus or anyone else to take credit for the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. They came to Lystra to present the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to everyone, both Jews and Greeks.

Strong spiritual forces had pushed Paul and Barnabas out of Pisidian Antioch and Iconium. The people were stirred up against Paul and Barnabas and the Lord Jesus Christ Whom they preached. Paul and Barnabas would not allow anyone to steal the glory of God for the miracle He wrought. They

would use the healing of Man Born Lane to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ so that everyone would understand the truth of what happened.

Rushed

1. **When**. When Paul and Barnabas heard about the worship of the people, what did they do? They rushed into the crowd.
2. **Heard**. Paul and Barnabas heard that they were called Zeus and Hermes and that the priest was coming to offer sacrifice.
3. **Tore**. Paul and Barnabas tore their robes, a common practice of Jews expressing tremendous displeasure.
4. **Robes**. By tearing their robes in public, Paul and Barnabas sent a clear message to the crowd.
5. **Rushed**. They also rushed into the crowd to stop what they were doing.
6. **Crowd**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas ran into the crowd to speak with them and persuade them to end their idolatry and receive Jesus Christ as Savior.
7. **Crying**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas began crying out in the middle of the crowd.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the courage of Paul and Barnabas to run into a crowd full of idolatry.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never accepting the worship of people, even for a moment.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God loves idolaters and has been sending messengers like Paul and Barnabas.**

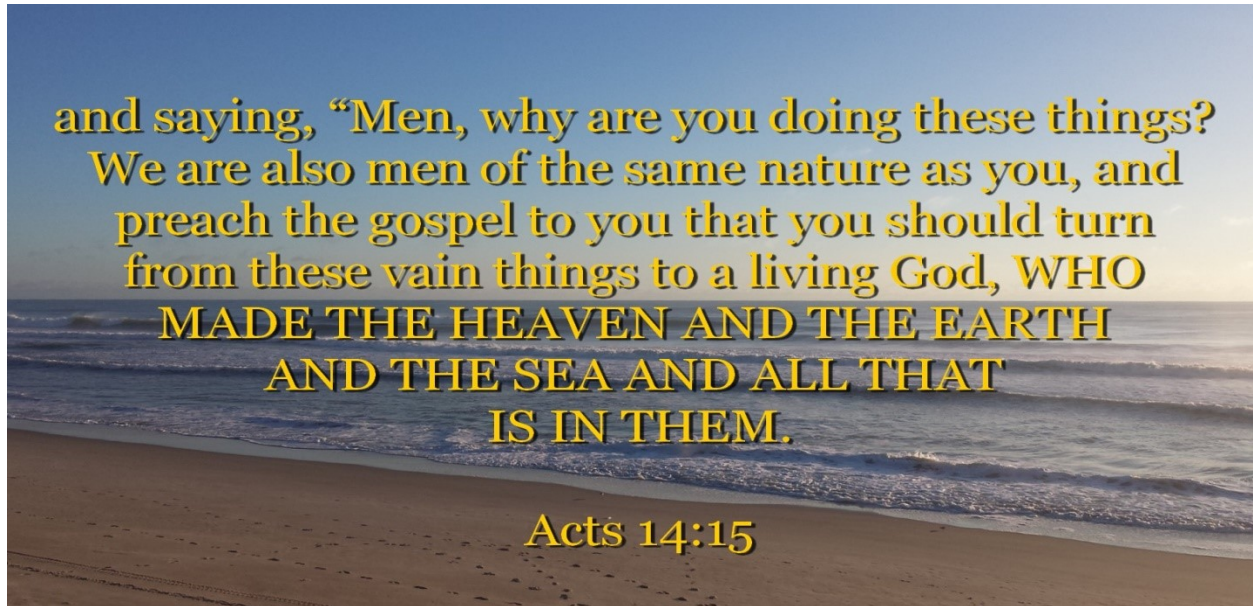
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Barnabas tearing their robes and rushing into the crowd of idolaters. Will you live holy in the family of God today by proclaiming your faith in the midst of idolaters?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 506

Preach Today



How did how did Paul and Barnabas react to the people trying to worship them? They asked why they are doing these things.

As the people of Lystra tried to worship them as Greek gods, Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes and began talking with them. They began by asking them why they were doing these things. Paul and Barnabas explained that they were men of the same nature as the crowd. They further explained that they preach the gospel so that they would 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.

Paul and Barnabas addressed the crowd in an orderly manner. They started by probing the motives of the crowd seeking to worship them. They wanted the men in the crowd to understand that they would not accept worship because they were not gods. Although they worked miracles, they were not gods and should not be confused with gods. Paul and Barnabas then told them they had come to preach the Gospel to the people of Lystra. Paul

and Barnabas wanted them to turn away from these vain things to a living God Who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

Gospel

1. **Men**. How did Paul and Barnabas describe God? They described God as the living God who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

2. **Why**. They asked why were people trying to sacrifice to them, as if they were gods?

3. **Nature**. They said they were of the same nature as the men in the crowd.

4. **Gospel**. They explained that they had come to preach the Gospel to the people of Lystra.

5. **Turn**. Paul and Barnabas wanted them to turn to the living God and away from the vain things that they had been worshiping.

6. **Living**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the Gospel of the living God who had made everything.

7. **All**. We rejoice today because there is only one God in the universe and He made all things on earth and in the heaven and in the sea.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by avoiding the worship of anyone except God Himself.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that God created all things.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by explaining to people that they worship vain things and need to turn to the living God.**

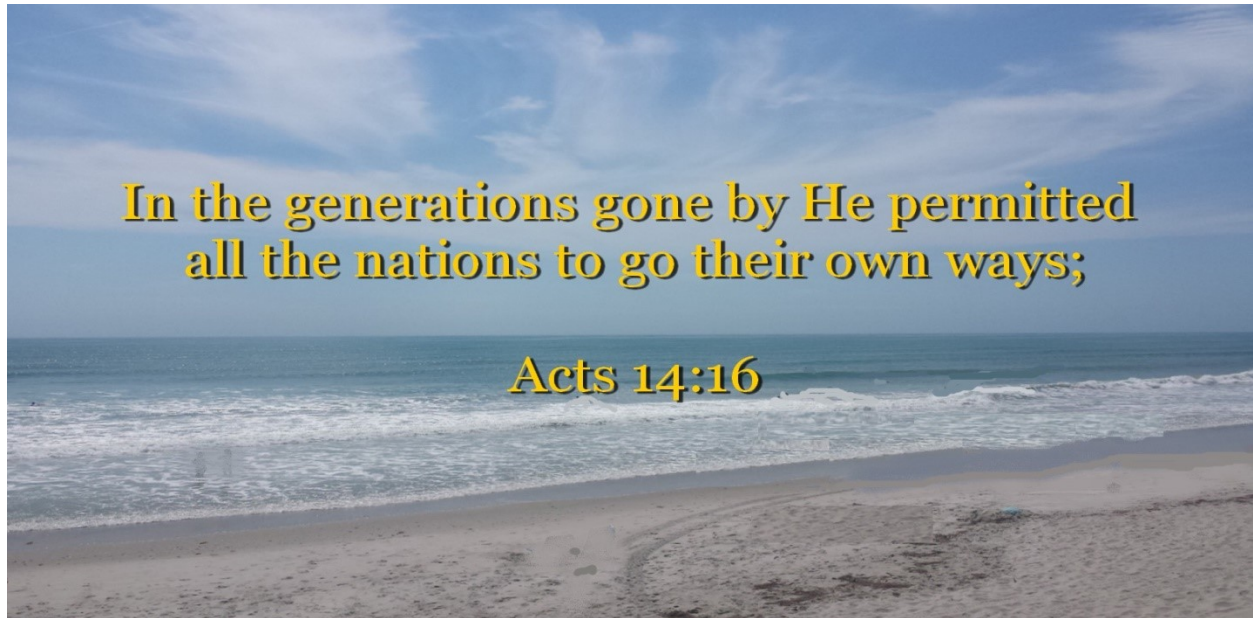
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by never receiving worship from anyone. Will you live holy in the family of God today by explaining to people why their gods are vain and they must turn to the living God for salvation?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 507

Permitted Today



What did Paul and Barnabas tell the crowd about God? They told the crowd about God permitting the nations to go their own ways.

As the people of Lystra came out to worship Paul and Barnabas as Greek gods, they began proclaiming the Gospel to them. They began by asking the crowd why they were trying to worship Paul and Barnabas when they were not gods. They were able to work a miracle because God sent them, but they were not gods.

Paul and Barnabas then explained why they had come to Lystra. They came to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the people of Lystra so that they might turn to the living God. They had been worshiping vain gods, but ignoring the living God who had made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

Paul and Barnabas then explained that God had permitted all the nations to go their own ways in previous generations. Because all the nations had gone their own ways, they had forsaken the living God. Now God had

sent Paul and Barnabas to proclaim the way of salvation to all nations so that they would receive eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Their Own Ways

1. **Generations**. What did God permit? In previous generations God permitted the nations to go their own way and forsake Him.
2. **Gone**. The nations had gone their own way.
3. **He**. He did not stop them from forsaking the only living God.
4. **Permitted**. God permitted them to walk away from the living God and His great love.
5. **Nations**. All the nations decided to walk away from God.
6. **Go**. Living holy in the family of God means that in previous generations God allowed all the nations to go their own way.
7. **Way**. We rejoice today because Jesus was the Way to the Father and remains the only Way to the Father to this day, so that if the nations go their own way, they never come to the Father.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that God permitted the nations to forsake Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding the patience of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He sent Paul and Barnabas to the nations that had gone their own way.**

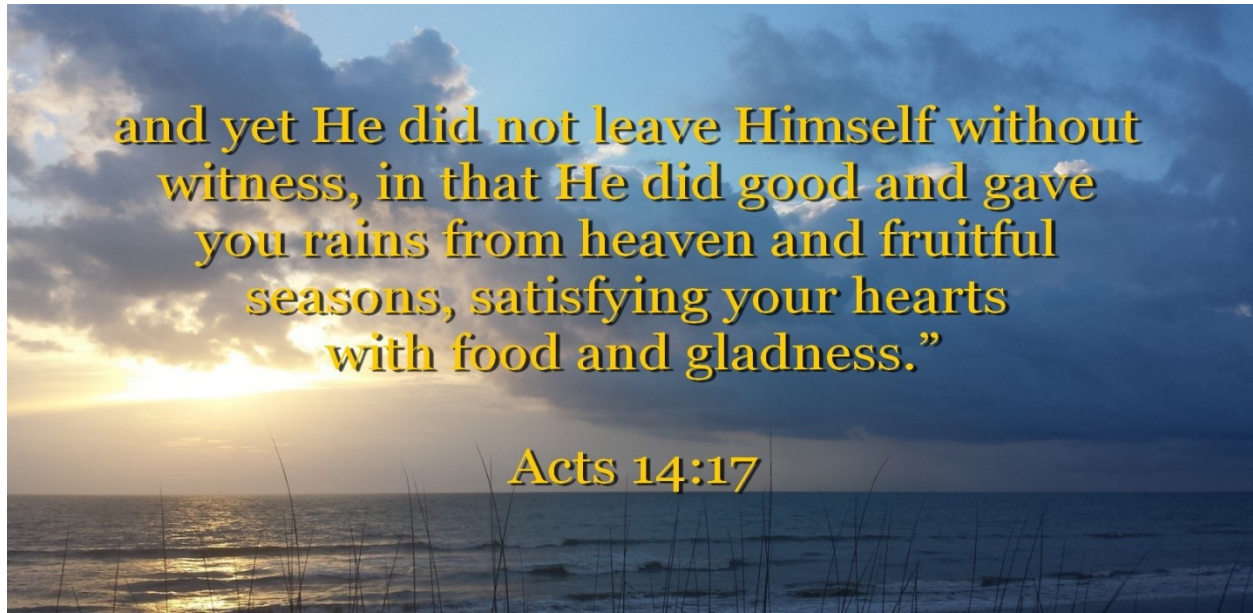
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking the Gospel to the nations that God allowed to go their own way for generations. Will you live holy in the family of God today by helping spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to nations that have gone their own way?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 508

Witness Today



Did God leave Himself without a witness? God provided constant witnesses to Himself.

Although God permitted the nations to go their own ways, God provided constant witnesses to the nations. God did good and gave rains from heaven and fruitful seasons. He satisfied their hearts with food and gladness. All of those things testified to the living God and His goodness toward the nations who had forsaken Him.

The goodness of God testifies to the love of God for the nations. In fact, God the Father sent God the Son to sacrifice Himself on a cross for the redemption of the nations. God did not spare anything, not even His only Son, to redeem the nations from their sin.

The living God made the earth and the heaven and the sea and all that is in them. Paul explained that one God, the living God, made all things on the planet and all people and all nations. The Greek pantheon worshiped by the people at Lystra where no gods at all. The people of Lystra had been deceived.

Good

1. **Yet**. Did God abandon all those nations who went their own way? God did not abandon those nations but was still good to them.
2. **Witness**. God provided a witness to all those nations that went their own way.
3. **Good**. God still did good to them.
4. **Gave**. God gave them blessings upon their lands.
5. **Rains**. God gave them rains and fruitful seasons.
6. **Hearts**. Living holy in the family of God means that God blessed the nations that forsook Him, satisfying their hearts.
7. **Food**. We rejoice today because God was gracious to the nations that forsook Him and satisfied their hearts with food and gladness.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the grace and mercy of God by sending rain and fruitful seasons upon the nations that forsook Him.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He gives nations blessings after they have forsaken Him for generations.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His grace and mercy in our lives, because we all came from nations that went their own way.**

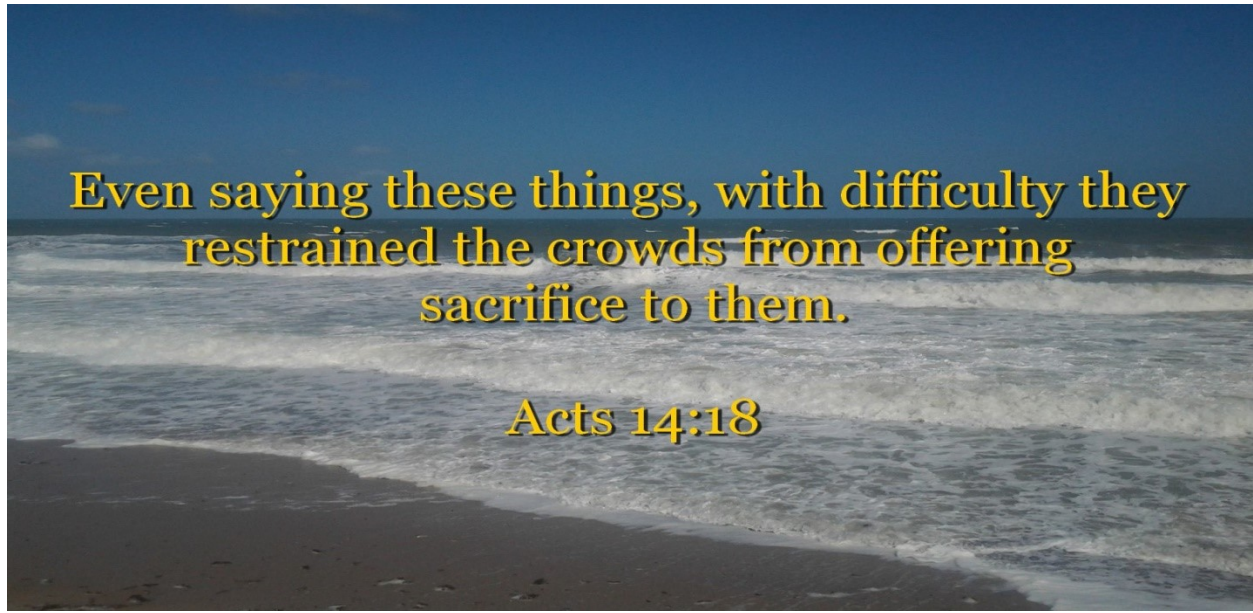
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for His mercies in our lives which include not only salvation in Jesus, but also His rain and fruitful seasons with food and gladness that satisfies our hearts. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the riches of His grace given the people who forsook Him for generations?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 509

With Difficulty Today



Did Paul and Barnabas find it difficult to restrain the crowds? Yes, because even after explaining everything to them, they still wanted offer sacrifice to them.

Many people believe things that are not true because they do not love the truth. Jesus said that He is the truth and no one comes to the Father but through Him. Jesus also said that people are sanctified in the truth and His word is truth.

The crowd at Lystra believed lies and did not care about the truth of God. Paul and Barnabas came proclaiming the truth of God to them. Because they were so caught up in their lies about the Greek gods, they did not have ears to hear the truth of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Even after explaining everything to the crowds about the true and living God, and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the fact that Paul and Barnabas were men, the crowd still wanted to offer sacrifices to them. Even so, Paul and Barnabas prevailed upon the crowd not to offer sacrifices to them.

Restrained

1. **Saying**. Did the crowd continue to want to sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas? Paul and Barnabas had difficulty stopping them from offering sacrifices to them.

2. **Things**. Paul and Barnabas had provided ample reasons for them not to offer sacrifices to them.

3. **Difficulty**. With difficulty they restrained the crowd from offering sacrifices to them.

4. **Restrained**. Paul and Barnabas tried to restrain the crowd by talking with them

5. **Crowds**. The crowds were intent upon offering sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas because they believed they were Greek gods.

6. **Offering**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas restrained the men of Lystra from offering sacrifices them, thinking they were Greek gods.

7. **Sacrifice**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas refused for anyone to worship them as gods.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the men of Lystra trying to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that Paul and Barnabas had difficulty restraining the people from worshiping them.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by never accepting worship and doing all we can to stop people from worshiping us.**

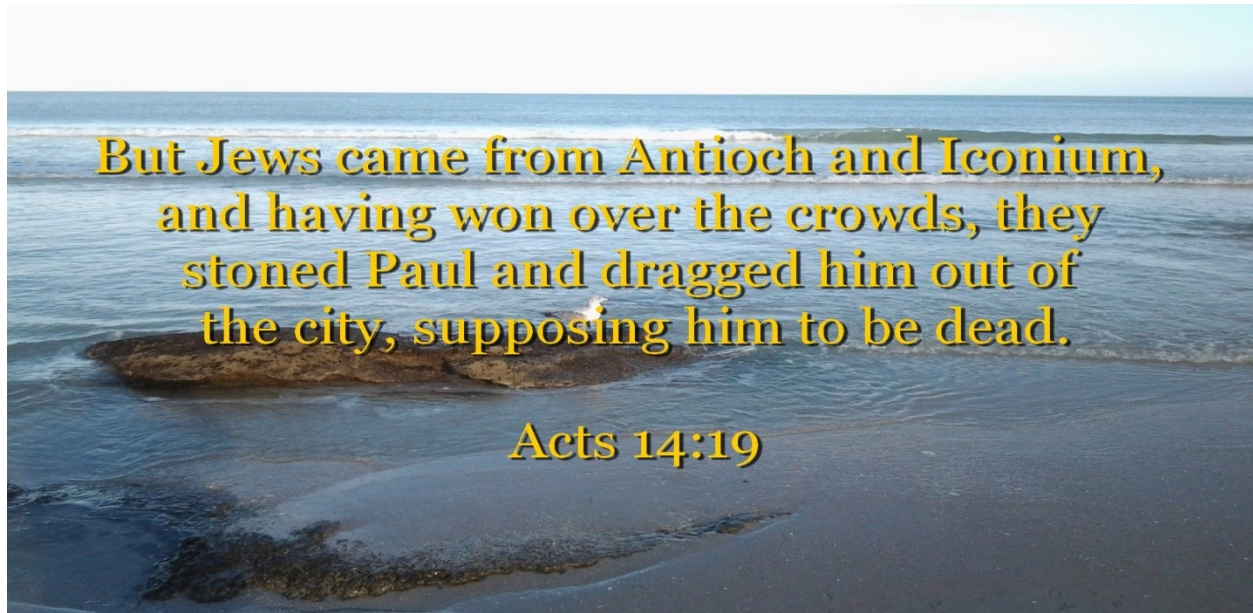
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the men of Lystra repeatedly trying to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas, despite their protests. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the men of Lystra who insisted upon offering sacrifices?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 510

Crowds Today



Why was Paul stoned at Lystra? Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and the crowds were persuaded to stone Paul.

Opposition in the New Testament to the Lord Jesus Christ takes many forms. The Jews from Antioch and Iconium had persecuted Paul and Barnabas, driving them out from those areas. Paul and Barnabas did not quit sharing the gospel, but moved on to new lands and new people.

The Jews from Antioch and Iconium stirred up people to persecute Christ and His church, focusing especially upon Paul and Barnabas. Those Jews stirred up the Greeks and the Jews so that they stoned Paul at Lystra.

Thinking they had achieved their goal of killing Paul by stoning, they dragged his body out of the city, supposing him to be dead. After seeing the miracles and hearing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the people of Lystra were persuaded by those Jews to kill Paul the apostle by stoning him. Jesus had already told Paul how much he must suffer for the Name of the Lord Jesus. Paul had been a fierce persecutor of the church before he came to

saving faith in Jesus Christ. Paul knew about persecuting Christians and being persecuted as a Christian.

Stoned

1. **But**. Who won over the crowds of Lystra? Jews from Antioch and Iconium won over the crowds at Lystra.
2. **Jews**. Jews came from Antioch and Iconium to persecute and kill Paul.
3. **Came**. They came with murderous intent.
4. **Won**. They won over the crowds in Lystra to do their bidding.
5. **Stoned**. The crowds, at the instigation of the Jews, stoned Paul.
6. **Paul**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember the crowds at Lystra stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city.
7. **Dead**. We rejoice today because the crowds at Lystra did not kill Paul as they hoped, but God spared Paul to continue his ministry of preaching the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the crowds stoning Paul at Lystra.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by worshiping God Who spared the life of Paul at Lystra.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing in God for His mercy and protection of His servants.**

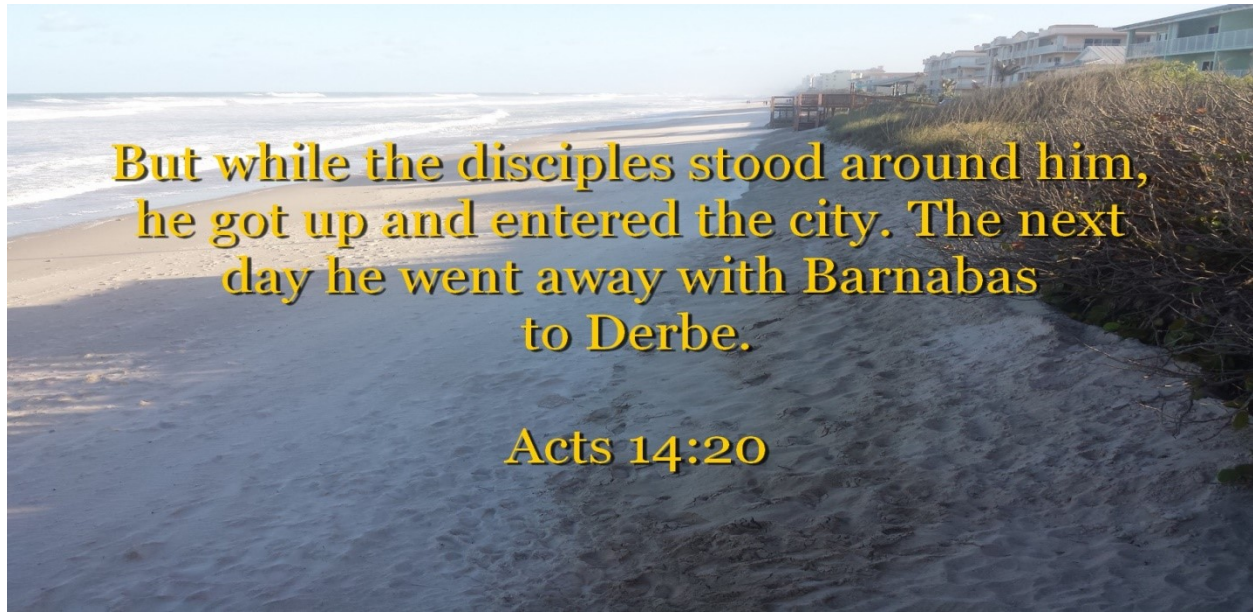
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the Jews chasing Paul and winning the hearts of the men of Lystra to stone Paul in cold blood and leave him for dead. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for sparing the life of Paul when the crowd had left him for dead?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 511

Entered Today



What happened after Paul was stoned? He got up and entered the city.

The Jews from Iconium and Antioch won over the crowds at Lystra. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, leaving him for dead. The disciples came and stood around him, and he entered the city. The next day, Paul and Barnabas left for Derbe, about 19 miles away. Those cities were connected by a major Roman highway.

Shortly after his conversion at Damascus, Paul began preaching in the synagogue there. The Jews became very angry with him and sought to kill him there. The ethnarch under King Aretas was guarding the city in order to seize Paul. With the help of the disciples, Paul escaped by being let down through the wall. Paul immediately became familiar with government, religious, and popular persecution. That same pattern of persecution by different groups continued throughout the New Testament. The devil and his demons fiercely opposed the work of God in saving saints. They fight a losing war, but at times do great violence to the kingdom of God.

As Paul and Barnabas traveled through the area of Asia Minor, God helped while the Jews opposed. They moved on from place to place, but never quit.

Went Away

1. **But**. What happened after the Jews stoned Paul? After the Jews dragged the body of Paul out of Lystra and left him for dead outside the city, he got up and went back into the city.

2. **Disciples**. The disciples gathered around the body of Paul.

3. **Stood**. As they stood around Paul's body lying on the ground, Paul got up.

4. **Around**. Paul got up by the power of God. The Jews had stoned him, dragged him and left him for dead.

5. **Him**. The Jews hated and stirred up the crowds to stone him. They thought they had triumphed over him by stoning him that day. They were mistaken on both counts.

6. **Up**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul got up as the disciples stood around him because the Lord Jesus Christ had further plans for Paul and Barnabas.

7. **Entered**. We rejoice today because not only did Paul get up while the disciples stood around him, he went back into the city of Lystra where they had just stoned him. The next day Paul and Barnabas went to Derbe.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul stood up after being stoned.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God had more plans for Paul and Barnabas, despite the fierce opposition and persecution.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by standing with saints as they endure persecution for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

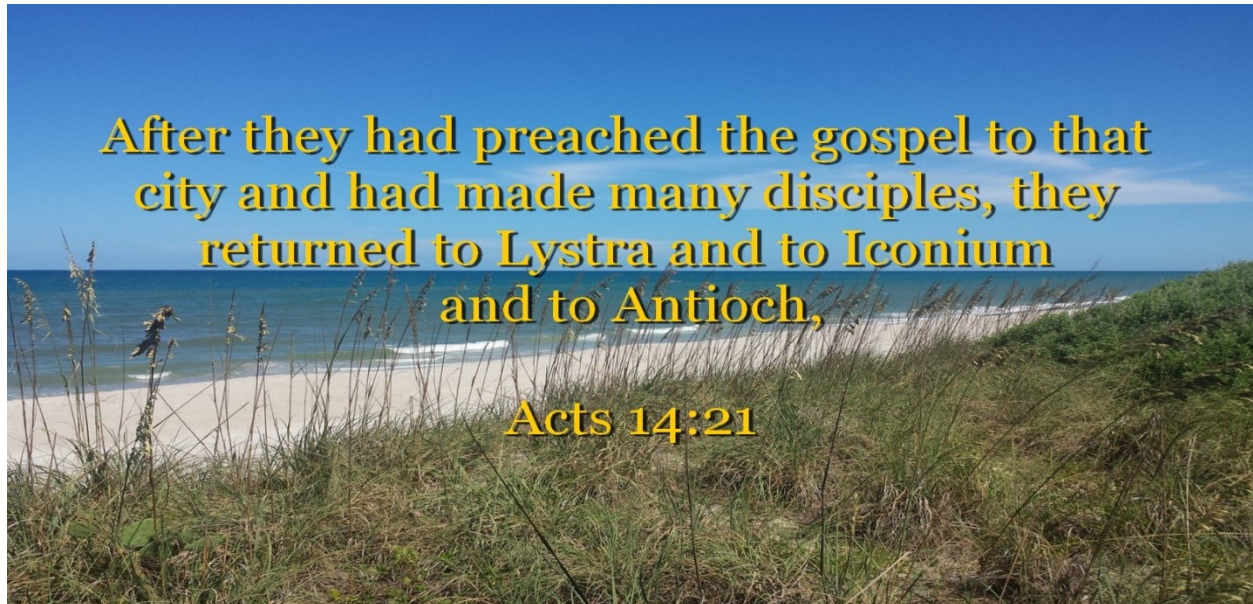
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the disciples went out to Paul and stood around him as he lay on the ground after being stoned. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God that Paul stood up and went right back into Lystra?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 512

Preached Today



What happened at Derbe? Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel there too.

Paul and Barnabas had enormous courage in Christ. Jesus had promised to strengthen them and support them and the Holy Spirit had commissioned them to go into different lands and proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Through many persecutions and bodily injury, they continued spreading the loving message of Jesus Christ to the nations.

The Jews began chasing them from city to city, seeking to extinguish their work and kill them. They enlisted others in the government, prominent people, and crowds to join them in attacking Paul and Barnabas. Because of the stewardship of the gospel entrusted to them, and using the power of the Holy Spirit within them, with boldness they continued proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to new lands and new people, knowing they were being chased by the Jews behind, and facing new persecution from the Jews and other religious people challenged by the message of Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas saw many people come to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Heaven rejoices over just one sinner who repents and turns to Christ for salvation. They made many disciples. Their work produced eternal fruit and glory for God. They moved on, but never quit. After fruitful ministry in Derby, they returned to Lystra and Iconium and Antioch.

Disciples

1. **After**. What did Paul and Barnabas do after preaching the gospel in Derbe? They return to the cities they visited previously.
2. **Preached**. Paul and Barnabas emphasized preaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the cities they visited.
3. **Gospel**. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ brought eternal life to everyone who believed.
4. **Many**. Many people received Jesus Christ as Savior at Derby.
5. **Disciples**. Paul and Barnabas made many disciples there.
6. **Encouraging**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas spent time encouraging the disciples to continue in the faith.
7. **Returned**. We rejoice today because having made many disciples in Derby, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and Iconium and Antioch.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking time to encourage disciples to continue in the faith.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by visiting disciples so that we may strengthen them with fellowship and teaching.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by encouraging one another to continue in the faith and to strengthen each other with fellowship.**

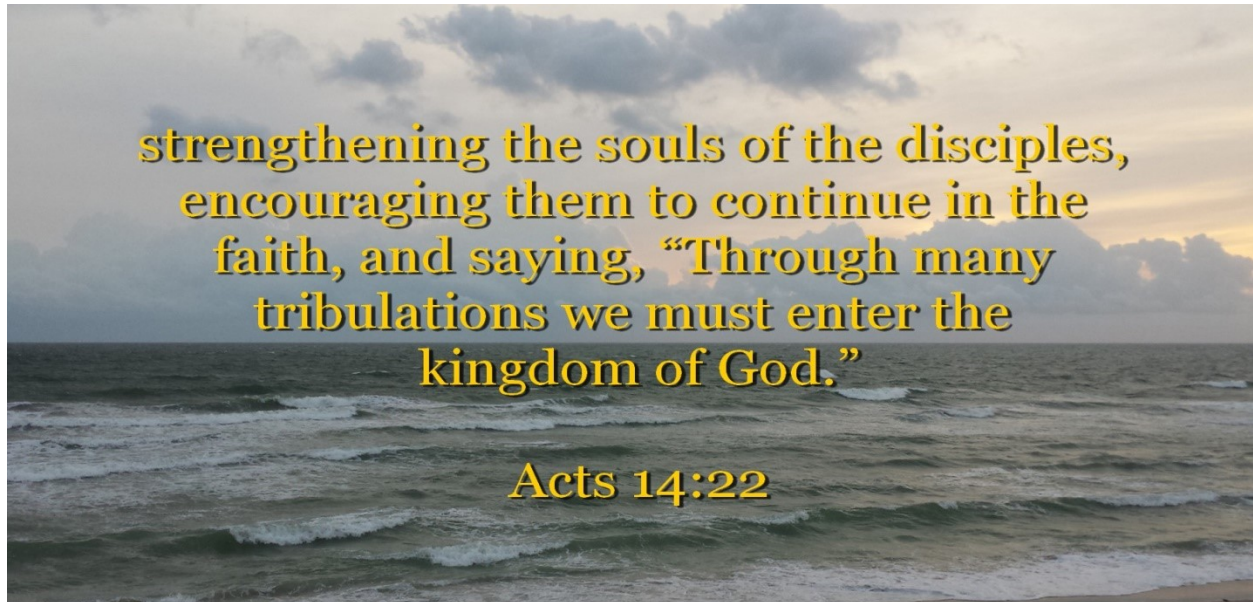
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by spending time with disciples and urging them to continue in the faith. Will you live holy in the family of God today by encouraging someone today to continue in the faith?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 513

Strengthening Today



Why did Paul and Barnabas return to the cities of Lystra, Iconium and Pisidian Antioch? They returned to strengthen the souls of the disciples in those cities.

Paul and Barnabas had made disciples in many cities where they traveled proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They knew that the people had been saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They also knew that those young believers needed to be strengthened and encouraged in their faith. One of the best ways to strengthen and encourage them was to spend more time with them face-to-face. So, they returned to the cities where they faced intense persecution for the sake of the disciples there.

God calls us to spend time in places that can present a danger to us. Paul and Barnabas returned to those places of persecution following the leading of the Holy Spirit. The young disciples needed their faith strengthened and encouraged and words from the apostles would help them.

Paul and Barnabas strengthened and encouraged the faith of the young believers with a very specific message. They did not ignore or downplay the

persecution that the disciples would face in the cities, but they explained that through many persecutions we must enter the kingdom of God.

Tribulations

1. **Strengthening**. What did Paul and Barnabas do for the churches? They came strengthening them in the faith.

2. **Souls**. They particularly strengthened the souls of the disciples.

3. **Disciples**. The disciples in those cities came to faith through the preaching of Paul and Barnabas.

4. **Encouraging**. They returned to strengthen those young believers in the faith so that they would continue in the faith.

5. **Tribulations**. Paul and Barnabas also told them that they would endure many tribulations.

6. **Enter**. Living holy in the family of God means that saints will enter the kingdom of God through many tribulations.

7. **Kingdom**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas told the truth that saints should expect many tribulations in their life before they enter the kingdom of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by encouraging and strengthening other believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking time to strengthen other believers in their souls.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by reminding one another that through many tribulations we enter the kingdom of God.**

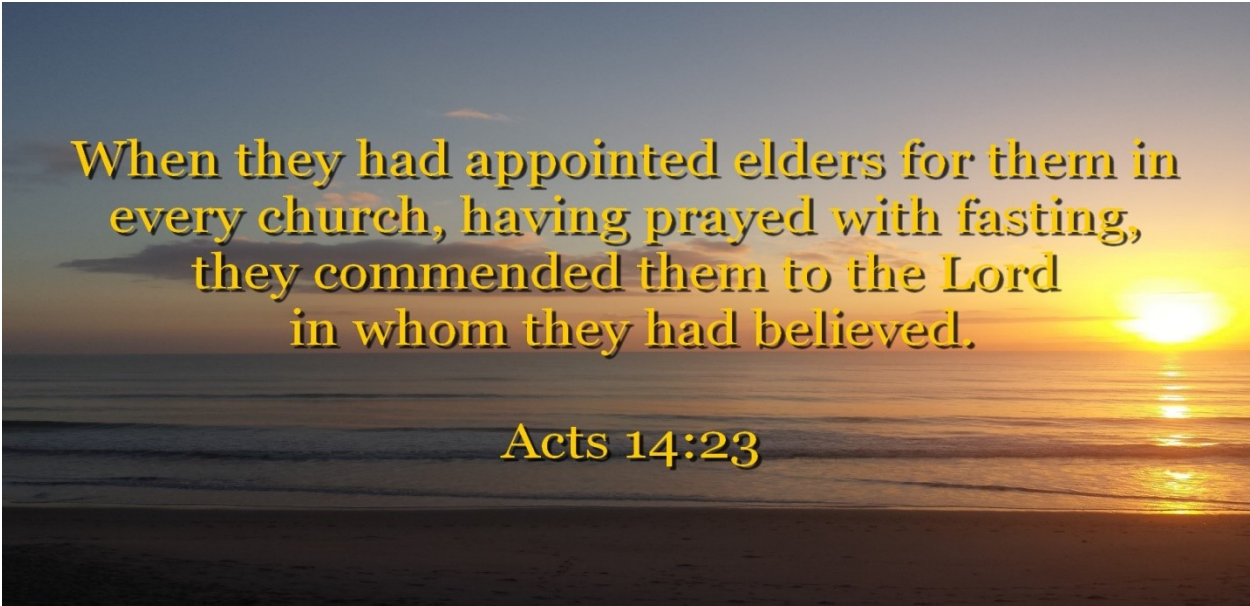
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by trusting God to help us endure the many tribulations coming our way as saints. Will you live holy in the family of God today by encouraging and strengthening the souls of other believers?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 514

Elders Today



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.

Acts 14:23

What did Paul and Barnabas do for church leadership? They appointed elders for them in every church.

Paul would later tell Timothy to appoint elders for the churches in Crete. He followed the pattern described in our verse today. After prayer with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Therefore, we may understand the process for appointing elders in the local church.

First, Paul and Barnabas had preached the gospel in that local assembly. Second, they knew the men who had come to Christ and were familiar with their testimony. Third, prayer and fasting preceded the laying on of hands. Fourth, they knew that those men had gone through persecution without giving up on their faith. Fifth, they commended them to the Lord and left.

New Testament church leadership included elders serving in every local assembly. Paul and Barnabas did not immediately appoint the elders, but gave believers time after salvation to demonstrate their spiritual

faithfulness to Christ and love for others before appointing elders. They did not lay hands upon anybody hastily. They appointed elders only when they returned after ministry elsewhere.

Commended

1. **When**. How did the churches get elders? Paul and Barnabas appointed them.

2. **They**. They appointed elders in the church that they visited previously, proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to them.

3. **Appointed**. Elders were not elected by the congregation; they were appointed by Paul and Barnabas.

4. **Elders**. The elders serve in a leadership position in the church. Paul and Barnabas, having made disciples in those cities, knew the men to be appointed elders.

5. **Church**. Every local church needs spiritually qualified elders to be appointed.

6. **Prayed**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas prayed with fasting before they appointed elders.

7. **Commended**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas commended those elders to the Lord in Whom they had believed.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by appointing elders in every church.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by fasting and praying before appointing elders.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by commending the elders to the Lord in Whom they believed.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by appointing elders in every church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by encouraging the elders in your local church?

HALLELUJAH !

11

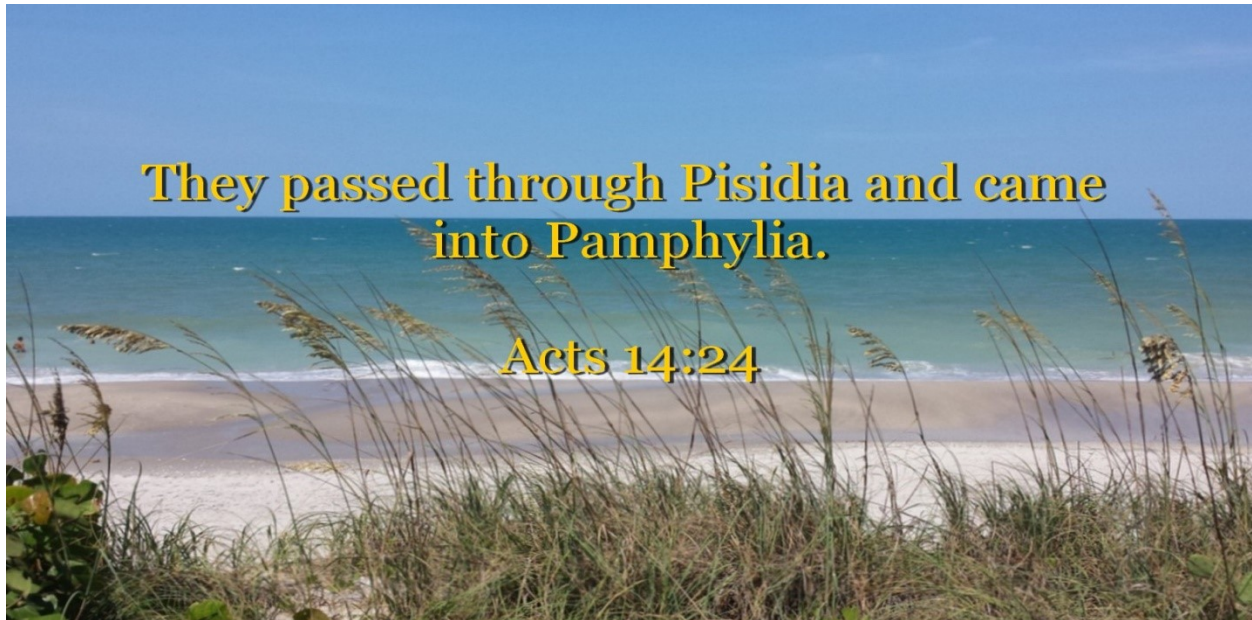
Return to Antioch Today

Where did Paul and Barnabas go after arriving in Pamphylia? They sailed from Pamphylia to their home church in Antioch, where they had been commended by the Holy Spirit and the church to the work. When they arrived at Antioch, the church gathered and they reported all the things that God had done with them and how God opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas spent a long time at Antioch with the disciples there.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 515

Pisidia Today



Where were Paul and Barnabas heading after leaving Pisidian Antioch? They passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia.

Historians provide some further details about the regions of the Roman Empire described in Acts. At times, secular historians change things to suit particular people with particular interests. Even so, the secular historians provide some details about the regions traveled by Paul and Barnabas.

Pamphylia was situated on the southern coast of Asia Minor and was bounded by Pisidia on the north, Isauria on the East, the Mediterranean Sea on the south, and Lycia on the west. A range of the Taurus Mountains created a natural barrier producing a well-watered fertile strip of land along the coast.

Pisidia was another district of Asia Minor, with indistinct boundaries. It was bounded on the north by Phrygia, on the west by Caria and Lycia, and the south by Pamphylia. As a mountainous region, Pisidia had some fertile areas in the valleys of the Taurus Mountains. Paul and Barnabas entered

Pisidia from the south and crossed the mountains to Antioch, situated near the northern border and traveled the same path through Pisidia to Pamphylia.

Pamphylia

1. **They**. Where did Paul and Barnabas go after leaving Pisidian Antioch? They wanted to go into Pamphylia.
2. **Passed**. They passed through the district of Pisidia.
3. **Through**. They did not spend much time in Pisidia because they were intent upon getting to Pamphylia.
4. **Pisidia**. As they traveled through Pisidia, they traveled through mountainous regions and coastal plains.
5. **Came**. They were heading towards Pamphylia so they could preach the gospel there.
6. **Into**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel in Pisidia and then went into Pamphylia.
7. **Pamphylia**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas could have quit and given up at any point, but they persevered and went to Pamphylia.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Barnabas traveling through Pisidia and coming to Pamphylia.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that Paul and Barnabas never quit and gave up.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He sent someone to each of us to share the good news of Jesus Christ so that we would believe for salvation.**

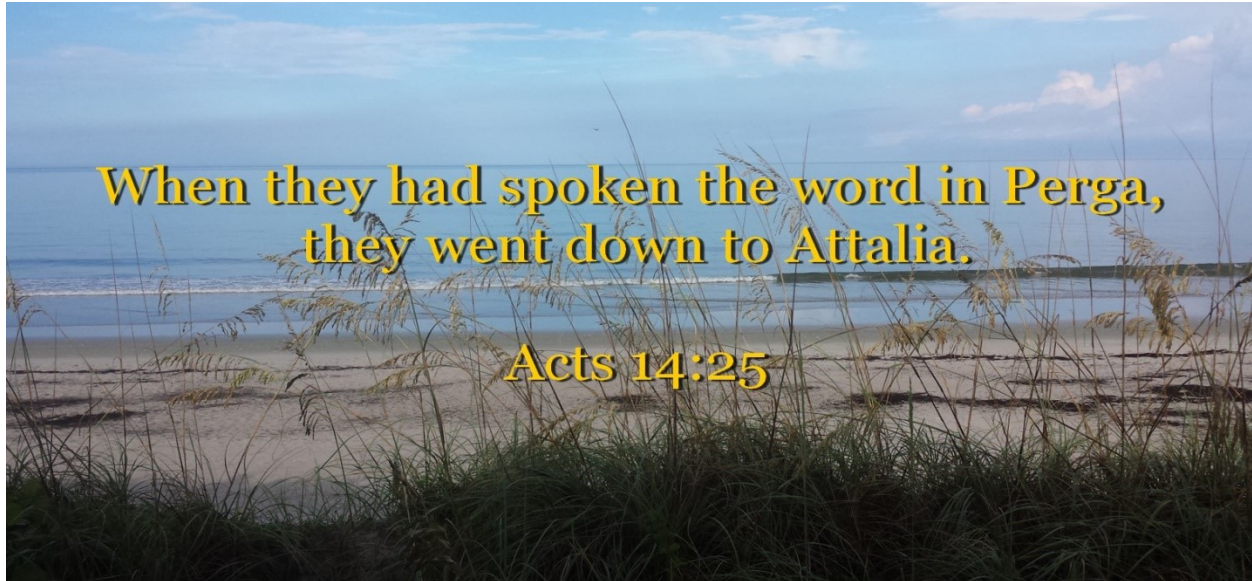
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the journeys of Paul and Barnabas traveling through mountainous regions and high passes and through valleys and coastal plains to reach cities with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing Jesus with people in your area?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 516

Perga Today



What did Paul and Barnabas do in Perga? After speaking the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

Perga was a city in Pamphylia. Perga was situated on the river Cestius, about eight miles from mouth of the river. For a time, it may have been the capital of Pamphylia. Paul and Barnabas made it a point to travel to the important cities in this area of the Roman Empire.

Attalia was situated on the Mediterranean Sea, about twenty miles from Perga. This sea port provided travel to other Mediterranean destinations. Paul and Barnabas may have landed at the port of Attalia in order to visit Perga, but they left Pamphylia from Attalia and returned home to Antioch.

Luke provided important historical details about the travels of Paul and Barnabas. Luke did not provide a lot of secular history about the places that Paul and Barnabas visited to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but he did provide important details about the spiritual condition of the cities both before and after Paul and Barnabas visited them. God always knows about

the spiritual condition of a city. Because God loved the people of Asia Minor, He sent messengers there to proclaim salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ to many of their major cities.

Attalia

1. **When**. What happened after Paul and Barnabas spoke the word in Perga? They went down to Attalia.

2. **Spoken**. Paul and Barnabas traveled to many different cities with one primary purpose: proclaiming the word of God for salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.

3. **Word**. The word of God brings salvation to all those who believe it.

4. **Perga**. Paul and Barnabas wanted to preach in Perga and made a special trip to get there. God did not provide many details of their encounter there with the Jews in the synagogue and the Greeks.

5. **Went**. Having preached the word in Perga, they went back to the seaport of Attalia.

6. **Down**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember Paul and Barnabas made a special trip to Perga to proclaim the word of God to them.

7. **Attalia**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas went down to Attalia so that they could begin the sea journey home to Antioch.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Barnabas went out of their way to preach at Perga.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by going where God directs us, even if it means traveling through the mountains.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for sending men like Paul and Barnabas to distant lands over the sea and through the mountains and across the plains.**

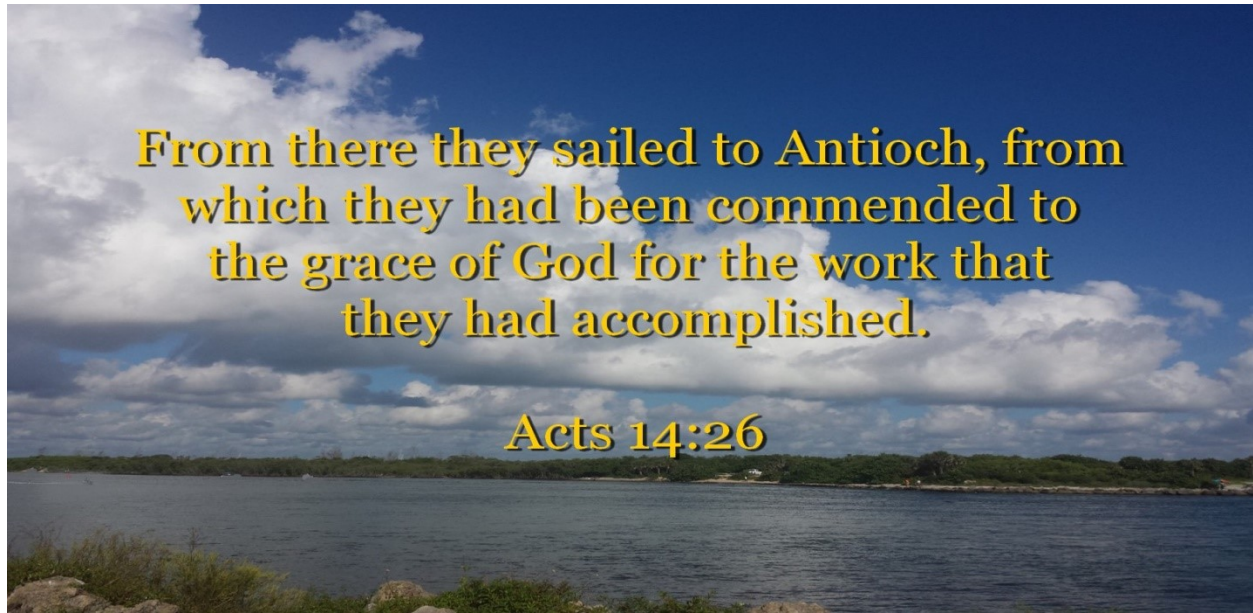
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that God sent Paul and Barnabas to Perga to proclaim the word of God. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going to the special places God may send you this week to proclaim His word?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 517

Commended Today



Where did Paul and Barnabas go from Attalia? They sailed to Antioch.

Paul and Barnabas, by the leading of God, were finally ready to return back to Antioch. The Holy Spirit had commended them to the work while Paul and Barnabas were laboring in Antioch for more than a year. The brethren there laid hands upon them and sent them out with God's blessing.

Paul and Barnabas followed the leading of the Holy Spirit through Asia Minor. In just about every city they went to, they experienced persecution and the blessing of God. Through many tribulations the saints must enter the kingdom of God. Paul and Barnabas never gave up on the ministry, but persevered and endured in sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas had seen the Lord work miracles. The lame walked and people with sickness were healed. God confirmed their ministries with signs and wonders to the populations. As their ministry grew and converts came to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Jews began organizing opposition against them. The Jews even chased them from city to city, stirring up the population and its leaders, both Jews and Gentiles, to oppose their work for the Lord

Jesus Christ. At Lystra, Paul was stoned and left for dead. But he got up and went back to the work.

Accomplished

1. **From**. From where did Paul and Barnabas start their first missionary journey? They started from Antioch.

2. **Sailed**. From Attalia they sailed Antioch.

3. **Antioch**. Paul and Barnabas had very fond memories of Antioch.

4. **Commended**. The Holy Spirit had commended the saints at Antioch to set Paul and Barnabas apart for the work which He had called them to do. Then the saints at Antioch commended them.

5. **Grace**. The church at Antioch commended Paul and Barnabas specifically to the grace of God. Without the grace of God, they could have achieved nothing.

6. **Work**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas did the work God called them to do.

7. **Accomplished**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas faithfully and consistently and courageously completed the work that the Holy Spirit had called them to do.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Barnabas doing the work by the grace of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing that Paul and Barnabas accomplished the work the Holy Spirit had given them to do, despite the persecution and affliction they endured.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for calling each of us to use our spiritual gifts and accomplish the work which He has given each of us to do.**

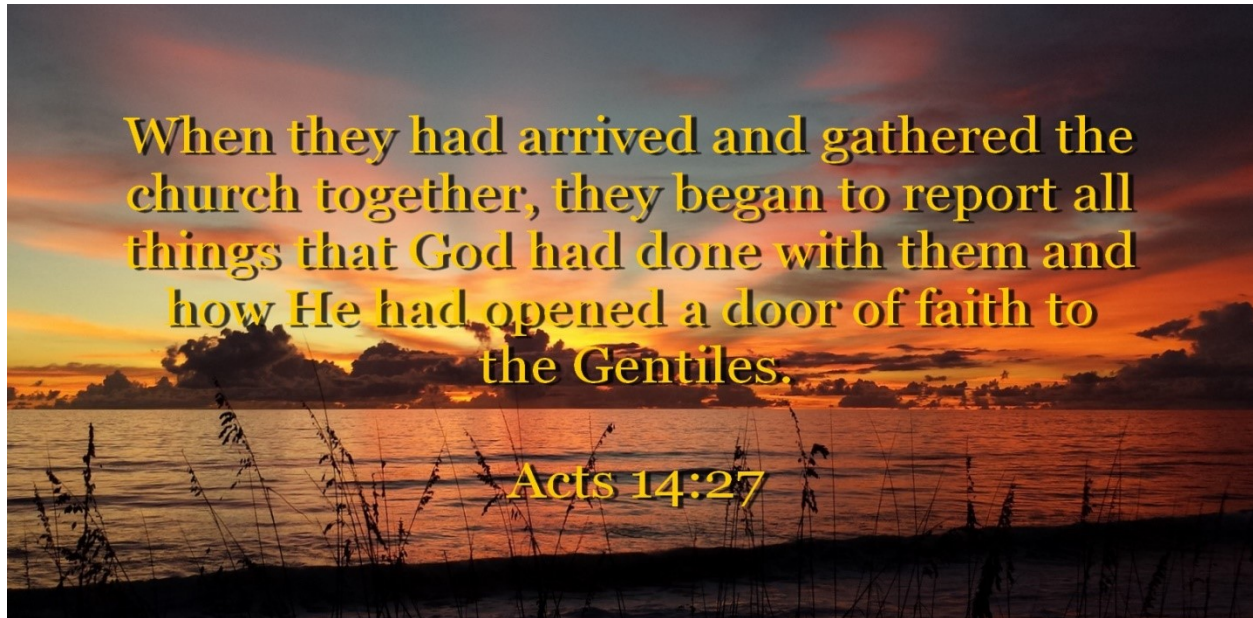
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by accomplishing the work which the Lord has given us to do. Will you live holy in the family of God today by finishing the work God called you to do by the grace of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 518

Report Today



What happened when Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch? They gathered the whole church together and gave a report.

The church at Antioch laid hands upon Paul and Barnabas and sent them out to do the work the Holy Spirit had called them to do. Paul and Barnabas had labored together at Antioch for more than a year before the Holy Spirit set them apart for missionary work.

Upon arriving back in Antioch, Paul and Barnabas gathered the church together. They began to report all that God had done with them. They also reported that God it opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Some brethren from Cyprus and Cyrene arrived in Antioch earlier and had begun to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Gentiles. Many Gentiles turned to the Lord for salvation at Antioch. The saints were first called Christians in Antioch. Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas reported that the Lord had opened the door of faith for the Gentiles, that was happy music to the ears of the Gentiles at Antioch. The time of the Gentiles had just begun to blossom.

Gentiles

1. **When**. What did Paul and Barnabas do when they finally returned to Antioch? They gave the saints there a report.
2. **Arrived**. When Paul and Barnabas arrived back in Antioch, they wanted to share what God had been doing with them.
3. **Gathered**. Therefore, they gathered the church together.
4. **Church**. They wanted the church to hear the report of all the things that God had done for them and all the places they had visited.
5. **Report**. That report included seeing many people, Jews and Gentiles, come to faith in Christ, but also included persecution.
6. **Opened**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas also reported that God also blessed the Gentiles.
7. **Door**. We rejoice today because God opened the door of faith for the Gentiles, and we all benefited from that door swinging wide open.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by gathering the church together to listen to friends returning from missionary journeys.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking the time to share the great things God's been doing in our lives with our friends of like precious faith.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by listening carefully to missionaries relating where they have gone and what God has done with their lives, even if it is just going across town for a day of ministry.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by gathering together and hearing about the great things God's been doing in the lives of His people. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sharing the results of your work which you have accomplished by the grace of God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 519

Time Today



What did Paul and Barnabas do after they gave the report? They spent a lot of time with the disciples in Antioch.

After the brothers from Cyprus and Cyrene came to Antioch preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to both Jews and Gentiles, news filtered back to Jerusalem. The church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Barnabas ministered in Antioch and things were going great. Barnabas decided it was time for Saul to become a part of that ministry team at Antioch. Therefore, Barnabas went on to Tarsus and brought Saul to Antioch where they ministered together for more than a year teaching and preaching.

Paul and Barnabas also took a collection from Antioch to Jerusalem for relief of the famine. A prophet named Agabus had come from Jerusalem to Antioch and delivered the news that a famine was coming. That revelation prompted the congregation at Antioch to send money to the apostles.

Because of this well-established relationship between Paul and Barnabas and the saints at Antioch, they felt very comfortable there seeing

their friends in Christ and strengthening and encouraging them with news about the great works that God had done with the Gentiles.

Disciples

1. **And**. After giving their report Antioch, what did Paul and Barnabas do? They spent time with other believers.

2. **They**. Paul and Barnabas had made an excellent ministry team on the road and at home at Antioch.

3. **Spent**. Paul and Barnabas were not aiming to make only converts, they wanted to make disciples that would continue in the faith and make more disciples.

4. **Long**. Paul and Barnabas knew that making disciples took time.

5. **Time**. Therefore, they spent time with the disciples of Antioch to help them grow up in their faith and profit from the experience of Paul and Barnabas.

6. **With**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas knew the value of spending time with disciples.

7. **Disciples**. We rejoice today because all disciples need other disciples to spend time with them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by spending time with other disciples.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by making disciples by spending time with disciples.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by making disciples who will share their faith and make more disciples.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking the time, even lots of time, to spend with disciples. Will you live holy in the family of God today by making time to spend with other disciples so that they will grow up in Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

12

Jerusalem

Council Today

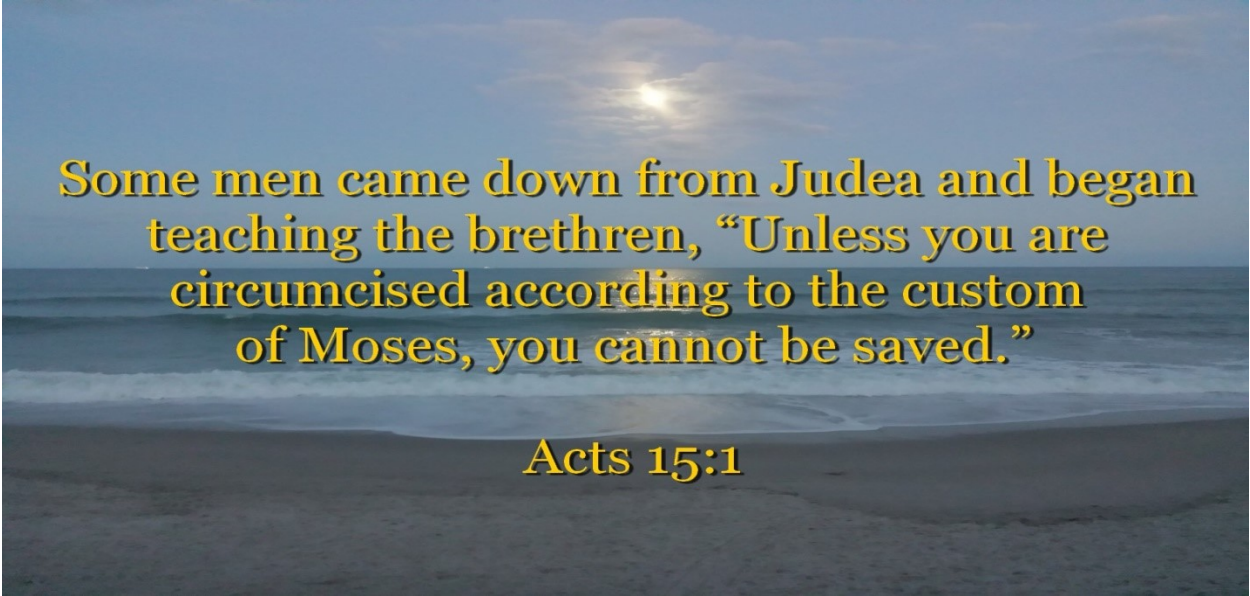
What happened when some men came down from Judea? They started teaching that unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot go be saved. Paul and Barnabas hotly disputed such teaching. The church at Antioch decided that Paul and Barnabas and others should go to Jerusalem and see the apostles and elders there concerning the issue. As they traveled to Jerusalem, they brought joy in Phoenicia and Samaria as they described the conversion of the Gentiles.

When they arrived in Jerusalem, the apostles and elders came together to look into the matter after Paul and Barnabas told them about the conversion of the Gentiles. Some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed said that it was necessary to circumcise the Gentiles and direct them to observe the Law of Moses. After much debate, Peter said that God gave the Gentiles the Holy Spirit, just like they received the Holy Spirit. God made no distinction between the Gentiles and the Jews. Peter observed that the Jews were never able to bear the yoke of the Law and so they should not put God to the test by placing that yoke upon the Gentiles. Peter emphasized that they had all been saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus. Everyone kept silent as they listened as Paul and Barnabas told of the great signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 520

Teaching Today



Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

Acts 15:1

What stirred up the congregation at Antioch? Some men came down from Judea and began teaching people that they could not be saved unless they were circumcised.

Paul and Barnabas were crystal clear about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They knew that the works of the Law could save no one. Circumcision did not save Abraham and it did not save anyone else. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant, but not a necessity for salvation.

Because many Gentiles had come into the church at Antioch and all the cities that Paul and Barnabas had visited, the issue of circumcision had come to a boil. Obviously, circumcision had not been a problem at Antioch before some men came down from Judea and began to preach circumcision as essential for salvation. They sought to impose the Law of Moses upon the new Gentile believers who had never been circumcised.

This problem of Judaizers proclaiming the Law of Moses as the means of salvation would plague the church for decades and beyond. While Jesus was Jewish and salvation was of the Jews, Jesus was the Savior that Moses

knew and proclaimed. The Law of Moses never saved anyone, because only Jesus Christ provided the perfect sin offering and salvation only comes by faith in Jesus as Savior.

Custom

1. **Some**. What happened when the Judaizers came down from Judea? They began teaching false doctrine to the people at Antioch.

2. **Judea**. The people from Judea taught false doctrine about the Law of Moses.

3. **Teaching**. The Judaizers taught that the Law of Moses must be obeyed by all the saints, both Jews and Gentiles.

4. **Unless**. The Judaizers taught further that circumcision was essential for salvation and no one could be saved without first being circumcised.

5. **Circumcised**. God gave circumcision to Abraham is a sign of the covenant, but Abraham was saved by faith before he was circumcised.

6. **Moses**. Living holy in the family of God means that false teachers will always try to reimpose the Law of Moses upon the church.

7. **Cannot**. We rejoice today because salvation only comes by faith in Jesus Christ, so that everyone who falsely says that salvation requires circumcision cannot be telling the truth.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing that salvation comes by faith and not by works of the Law or circumcision.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by opposing false teaching trying to reimpose the Law of Moses and circumcision.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejecting all attempts to make salvation a product of our works of any kind.**

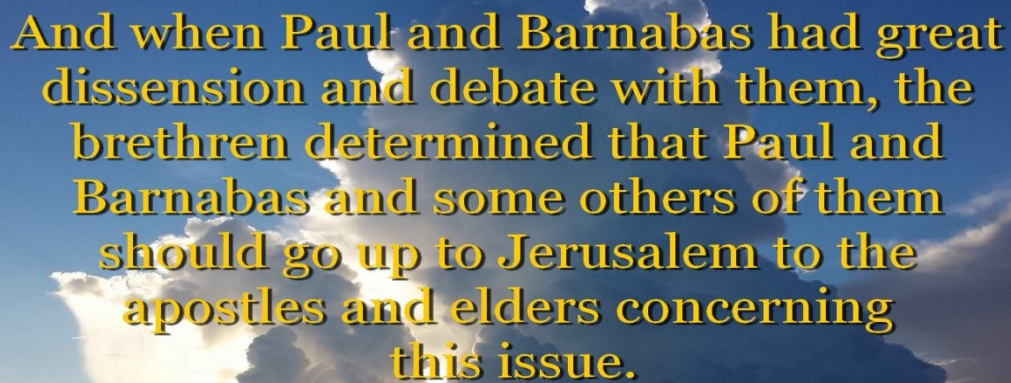
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God that Jesus fulfilled the Law for us and brought righteousness through faith which the Law could never produce in anyone. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that faith alone saves people?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 521

Dissension Today



And when Paul and Barnabas had great dissension and debate with them, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

Acts 15:2

Did Paul and Barnabas oppose the Judaizers teaching about the Law and circumcision? Paul and Barnabas had great dissension with the brothers and trying to reimpose the Law and circumcision upon the church.

God used Paul to clarify that salvation only comes by faith and that salvation has always only come by faith. Circumcision was given to Abraham as a sign of the covenant and never saved anyone. The Law given to Moses never saved anyone.

False teachers love to reimpose the Law and circumcision as they interpret them. God commanded the Law and circumcision, but they were guides for righteous living, not salvation. The Law of Moses was a reminder year-by-year of how sinful people really were and how much they needed a Savior. Circumcision was of no value without faith in God for salvation. Abraham was born again by faith before he received circumcision.

Paul and Barnabas had great debate and dissension with the Judaizers. Therefore, the brethren at Antioch determined that they should refer to this

matter to the apostles in Jerusalem. Therefore, they sent Paul and Barnabas and some of the other men to Jerusalem.

Issue

1. **Dissension**. What was the great dissension about? Some false teachers of the Pharisees falsely taught that converts to Christ must keep the Law of Moses and be circumcised.

2. **Debate**. Paul and Barnabas engaged in great debate along with great dissension.

3. **Determined**. The saints at Antioch determined that Paul and Barnabas and some other men should go up to Jerusalem.

4. **Jerusalem**. At Jerusalem they could seek guidance from other saints.

5. **Apostles**. The twelve apostles in Jerusalem were appointed by God to hold the office of apostle and provide guidance to the church.

6. **Elders**. Living holy in the family of God means that the elders in Jerusalem also held the office of elder.

7. **Issue**. We rejoice today because God provided a clear answer to the issue of keeping the Law of Moses and circumcision. Because salvation came by grace through faith and not by works, no one needed to keep the Law of Moses and no one needed to be circumcised.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for resolving the issues of keeping the Law of Moses and being circumcised.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that salvation is by grace through faith and not of works.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that we no longer live under the Law of Moses.**

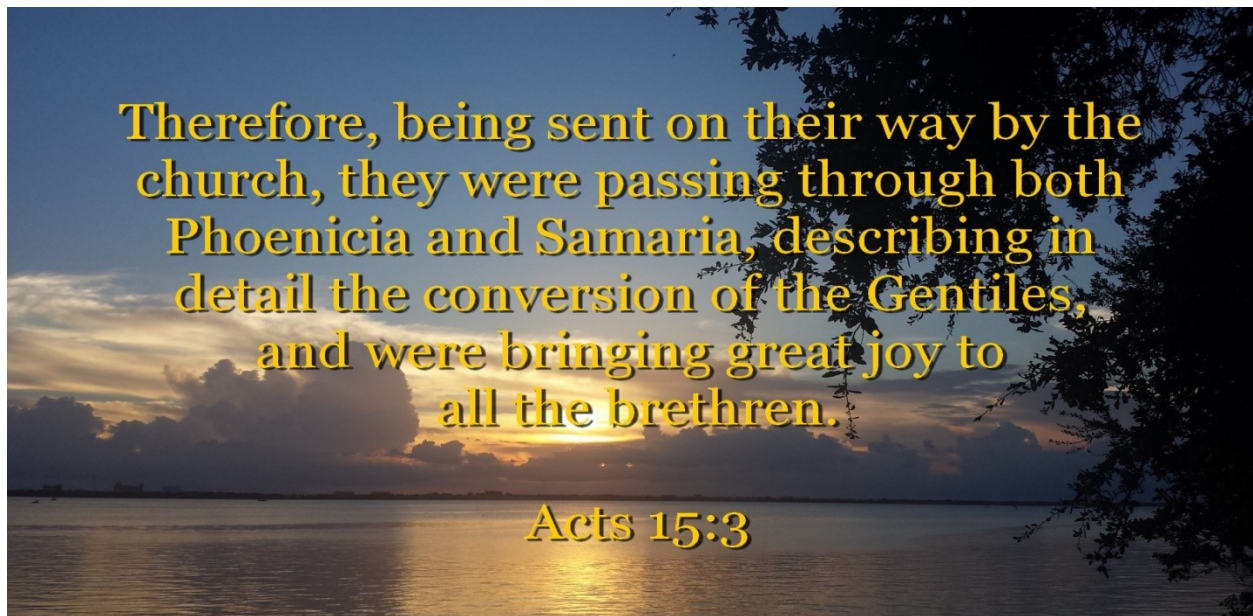
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by enjoying our salvation bought with the blood of Christ alone. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the free gift of salvation, never earned and never deserved?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 522

Conversion Today



What did Paul and Barnabas do on the way to Jerusalem? They spent time in Phoenicia and Samaria describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles.

The conversion of the Gentiles spurred the Judaizers to try to reimpose the Law of Moses and circumcision. Because the Judaizers never understood the Law or circumcision, they became stumbling blocks for the church. The Judaizers were never saved themselves and so could not explain to anyone how to become saved by faith in Christ alone.

Paul and Barnabas were seasoned travelers for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, when they had an opportunity to go through Phoenicia and Samaria, they brought great joy to the brethren living there by explaining in detail their missionary journeys. You may recall that Jesus commanded that the Gospel go first to Jerusalem then Judea then Samaria and to the end of the uttermost parts of the world. Samaria and then Phoenicia were part of that geographic expansion of the gospel and so they rejoiced even more hearing about Gentiles coming to Christ as Savior.

Gentiles

1. **Therefore**. Did Paul and Barnabas bring joy? Paul and Barnabas related the conversion of the Gentiles as they traveled to Jerusalem. Therefore, saints rejoiced over the news.

2. **Sent**. The church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas and others to the Jerusalem Council.

3. **Church**. The church in Antioch had commended Paul and Barnabas to the work and rejoiced when they returned with a report. Great debate and dissension arose when false teachers from Judea tried to impose the Law of Moses and circumcision as requirements for salvation.

4. **Phoenicia**. Paul and Barnabas traveled through Phoenicia, the coastal region of Gentiles bordering northern Israel, and brought joy there as they reported on the conversion of the Gentiles.

5. **Samaria**. Samaria was the capital city of the region of Samaria. Paul and Barnabas traveled through Samaria, visiting the churches there and bringing them joy with their report about the conversion of the Gentiles.

6. **Conversion**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas loved to share the great things God was doing among the Gentiles.

7. **Joy**. We rejoice today because Paul and Barnabas spent time sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with the Gentiles in many places and then shared the joy of their conversion with other people, both Jews and Gentiles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by sharing the news about people receiving the Good News of Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that He has entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing over the news of people in foreign lands receiving the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

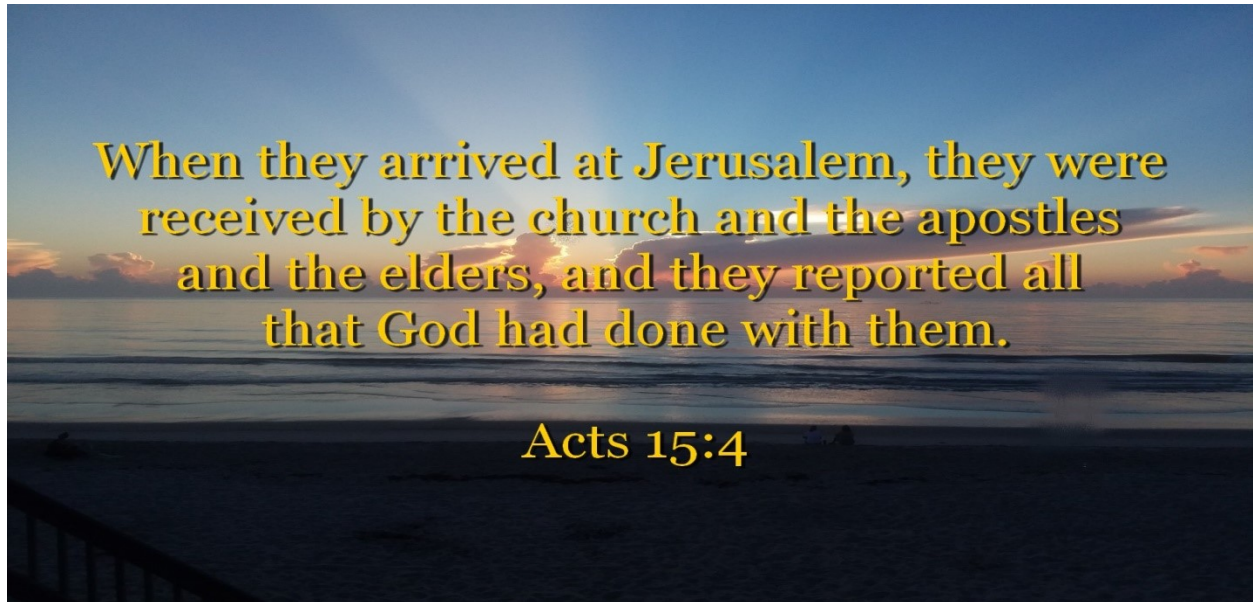
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by sharing the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for His work of salvation as the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ spreads across the world?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 523

Jerusalem Today



Who received Paul and Barnabas at Jerusalem? The church and the apostles and the elders received Paul and Barnabas.

Both Paul and Barnabas had spent some time in Jerusalem and knew the apostles. In fact, the apostles had given Barnabas his nickname of Son of Encouragement. Paul spent some time there in Jerusalem after he was saved in Damascus.

The apostles provided spiritual insight and guidance for the church in Jerusalem. Those twelve apostles held the office of apostle, which should not be confused with the Spiritual Gift of Apostle. Paul and Barnabas were both gifted by the Holy Spirit with the Spiritual Gift of Apostle. They could not meet the qualifications to be one of the twelve and so were not eligible to hold the office of apostle.

Paul and Barnabas had been on the cutting edge of missionary work in the cities of Asia Minor and in Antioch. They had seen firsthand the conversion of many Gentiles, and the opposition by the Jews. In that environment of God working signs and wonders, Paul and Barnabas had

learned about proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, which rested upon salvation by faith alone without works.

Reported

1. **When**. Who received Paul and Barnabas when they arrived in Jerusalem? The church and the apostles and the elders all received Paul and Barnabas.

2. **Arrived**. Paul and Barnabas arrived in Jerusalem after their journey from Antioch. Previously, they had made the same trip together.

3. **Received**. The church and the apostles and the elders received them, indicating they wanted to hear the report about their travels and work.

4. **Reported**. Paul and Barnabas reported to the saints in Jerusalem.

5. **All**. They told the saints in Jerusalem about all that God had been doing in the conversion of the Gentiles in many places.

6. **God**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul and Barnabas shared the good news about the Good News spreading in many new places so that many Gentiles turned to the Lord for salvation.

7. **Done**. We rejoice today because God had done a great work of salvation among the Gentiles in various places, but that work continues to this day.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God to spread His word in distant lands.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing over reports of salvation in foreign and domestic lands.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sharing the Good News and then reporting on the blessings of God so that others may rejoice with us.**

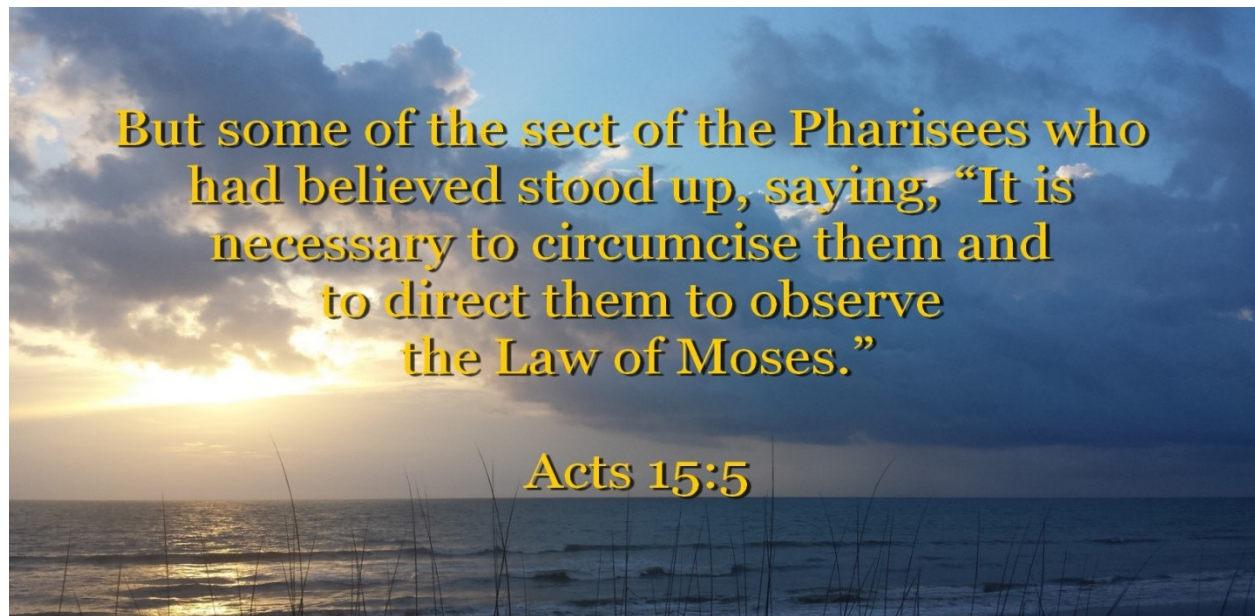
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that all of us needed to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, bringing salvation from God into our lives. Will you live holy in the family of God today by reporting to other saints about the great things God has done through your use of your spiritual gifts?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 524

Pharisees Today



What were some of the Pharisees arguing? They argued that the converts must be circumcised and they must keep the Law of Moses.

Paul was a Pharisee of the Pharisees. Paul came to faith by revelation of the Gospel from the Lord Jesus Christ. He pointedly stated that he did not receive the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ from any man, but from the Lord Jesus Christ directly. Therefore, Paul was extremely unwilling to impose the Law of Moses or the requirement of circumcision upon anybody because salvation was only by faith and not by works of the Law or of circumcision.

In later life Paul wrote letters to the churches and explained in great detail the theology of salvation by faith alone. Saints are not justified by their works, so that no one may boast. Justification comes by faith alone, by grace through faith. The works of the Law never justified anyone and could not justify anyone at any time.

As a Pharisee at one time, Paul understood the Law of Moses. That Law, however, could never take away sin through the blood of bulls and goats, otherwise Christ died needlessly. Abraham was circumcised after he

believed in God for salvation. Therefore, circumcision had no role in salvation.

Law of Moses

1. **Some**. What did the Pharisees want? Some men of the sect of the Pharisees who had believed wanted to impose the requirement that all Gentile believers, and Jews, receive circumcision and follow the Law of Moses.

2. **Pharisees**. Paul himself was a Pharisee of the Pharisees before he became a Christian.

3. **Believed**. Some of the sect of the Pharisees believed in Jesus Christ, but apparently they did not understand and believe the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Necessary**. Those Pharisees thought it necessary to circumcise all believers for salvation.

5. **Circumcise**. Those Pharisees did not understand that Abraham was born again before he was circumcised, showing that circumcision was never necessary for salvation.

6. **Direct**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Pharisees among us today always want to impose a duty upon believers to keep the Law of Moses as a requirement for salvation. By doing so, they proclaim a false gospel based upon human works, not by grace through faith in Christ alone.

7. **Moses**. We rejoice today because God gave the Law of Moses to remind people how sinful they were and how much they needed a Savior, Jesus Christ the Righteous.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Pharisees among us will always try to impose circumcision and keeping the Law of Moses upon believers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never forgetting that the works of the Law of Moses never saved anyone.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.**

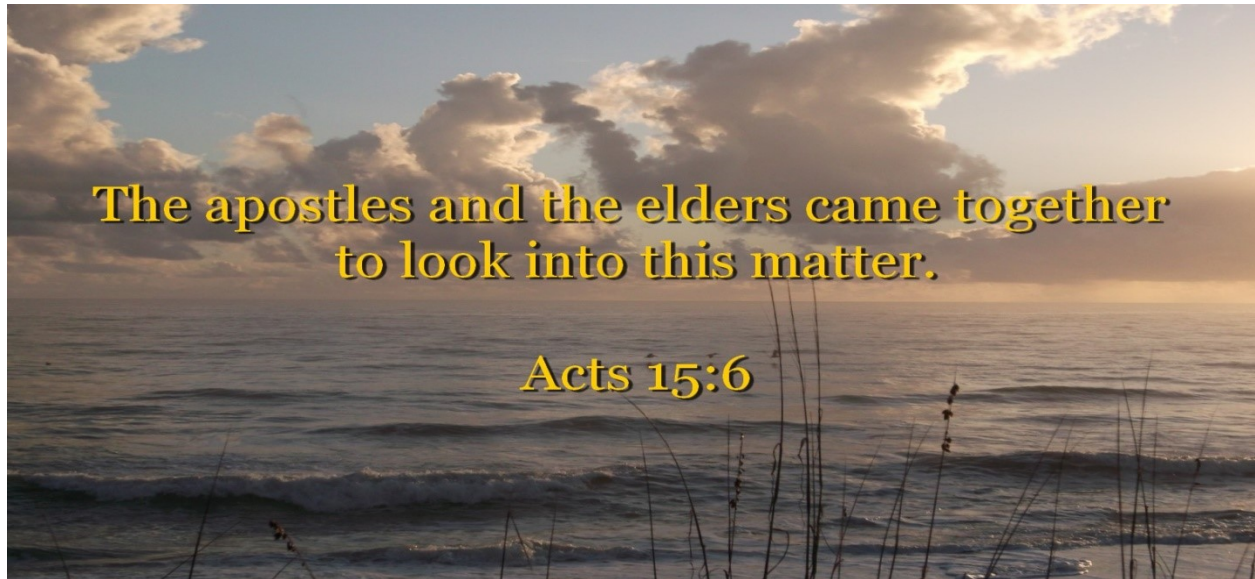
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by opposing all efforts to impose circumcision or obedience to the Law of Moses as requirements for salvation. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in the truth that salvation rests upon the grace of God and not the works of men?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 525

Apostles and Elders Today



Why did the apostles and elders come together? They came together to look into this matter about the Law and circumcision.

The apostles and the elders both held church offices. The apostles had been selected by Jesus Christ to be His witnesses to the world. They provided eyewitness testimony from the time of His baptism to the time of His ascension back to heaven. The elders held the church office of elder. Two of their main duties included (1) protecting the church from wolves coming into the flock and attacking the sheep; (2) protecting the church from perverted men arising inside the church and seeking to lead sheep away from the flock.

Both elders and apostles had a duty to maintain sound doctrine within the church. The issues concerning the Law of Moses and circumcision concern the bedrock of the church, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Judaizers sought to introduce works into salvation. Two works in particular they claimed were essential for salvation: (1) keeping the Law of Moses; and (2) circumcision. If the early church were to allow either of those things to be proclaimed as essential to salvation, then the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ

would have been hopelessly perverted and undermined. This gathering of the saints in Jerusalem became known as the Jerusalem Council.

Together

1. **Apostles**. Why did the apostles and elders come together? They came together to examine the claims of the Pharisees. The twelve apostles were appointed by God to hold the office of apostle and to do the work of eyewitnesses to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

2. **Elders**. The elders were appointed by God to hold the office of elder and do the work of an overseer.

3. **Came**. Both the apostles and the elders came together to examine things carefully and hold onto the good.

4. **Together**. Together they could discuss the matter, hear from both sides of the dispute, consider the Scriptures, and pray together to understand the will of God concerning this matter.

5. **Look**. They came together to look into this matter very carefully because the issue raised had broad-reaching implications.

6. **This**. Living holy in the family of God means that this matter had arisen because of the conversion of the Gentiles and their introduction into the church composed of both Jews and Gentiles, for God is no respecter of persons.

7. **Matter**. We rejoice today because God brought this matter for resolution so that the church of Jesus Christ would be unified in sound doctrine.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by thanking God for resolving this matter once and for all.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by consulting the elders and seeking spiritual guidance from the apostles by reading the New Testament.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that He knows the proper resolution for every issue and makes His will known to the church through the Scriptures.**

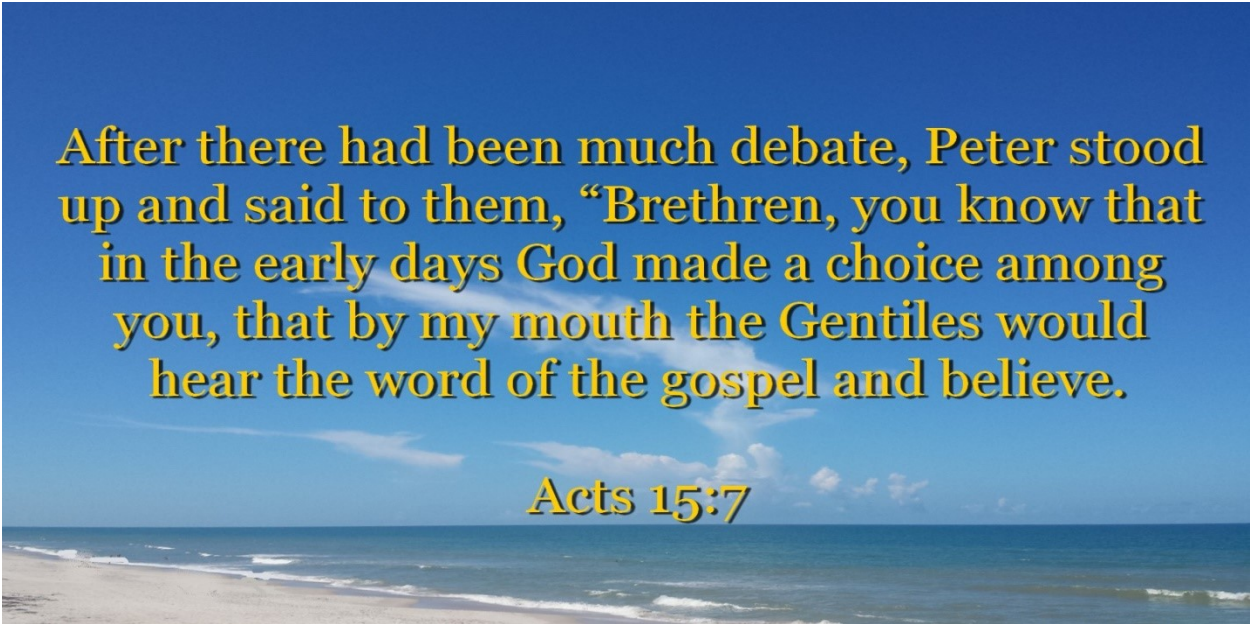
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for knowing everything and then leading us to know His will concerning all matters of life and Godliness. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for leading us in the path of righteousness which grows brighter and brighter each day?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 526

Gentiles Today



After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brethren, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15:7

What did Peter say to clarify the debate? Peter told the group about the choice that God had made.

Peter explained that God made a choice that by his mouth the Gentiles would hear the word of the Gospel and believe. Peter was referring to his experience at Joppa on the rooftop. He saw a great sheet lowered by four corners from heaven. Inside the sheet were all kinds of unclean animals. God told Peter to go and kill, but Peter resisted saying he had never eaten anything unclean or unholy in his life. God told Peter not to call unholy or unclean anything that He had cleansed. About the same time the vision ended, men sent by Cornelius, the centurion in Caesarea, arrived at the door of the house where he was staying. He joined the men and went to Caesarea and met Cornelius.

At Caesarea Cornelius had gathered together his relatives and friends to hear the message God had given to Peter. As Peter proclaimed the truth to them, the Holy Spirit fell upon them. Peter and the other believers with them were amazed that the Gentiles were saved and the Holy Spirit poured out

upon them just like what happened to the apostles at Pentecost following the ascension. Then they spoke in tongues, further confirming their salvation to the Jews present. God made that choice of Peter preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles in the early days.

Believe

1. **After**. After much dissension and debate, what did Peter have to say? Peter talked about God using him to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

2. **Debate**. The sect of the Pharisees touched off a debate in Jerusalem concerning the obligation to keep the Law of Moses and circumcision.

3. **Peter**. Peter stood up and recounted the choice God made among the brethren.

4. **Choice**. They should remember the choice that God made regarding Peter and the Gentiles.

5. **Mouth**. By the mouth of Peter the Gentiles heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

6. **Gentiles**. Living holy in the family of God means that God chose Peter to take the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles in the first instance.

7. **Gospel**. We rejoice today because God brought the Gentiles to faith in Christ as Savior, beginning with Peter proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles at Caesarea.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Peter explaining God's choice about salvation for the Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God chose Peter to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He chose Peter to make the proclamation of the Gospel to the Gentiles and witness their salvation and the filling of the Holy Spirit.**

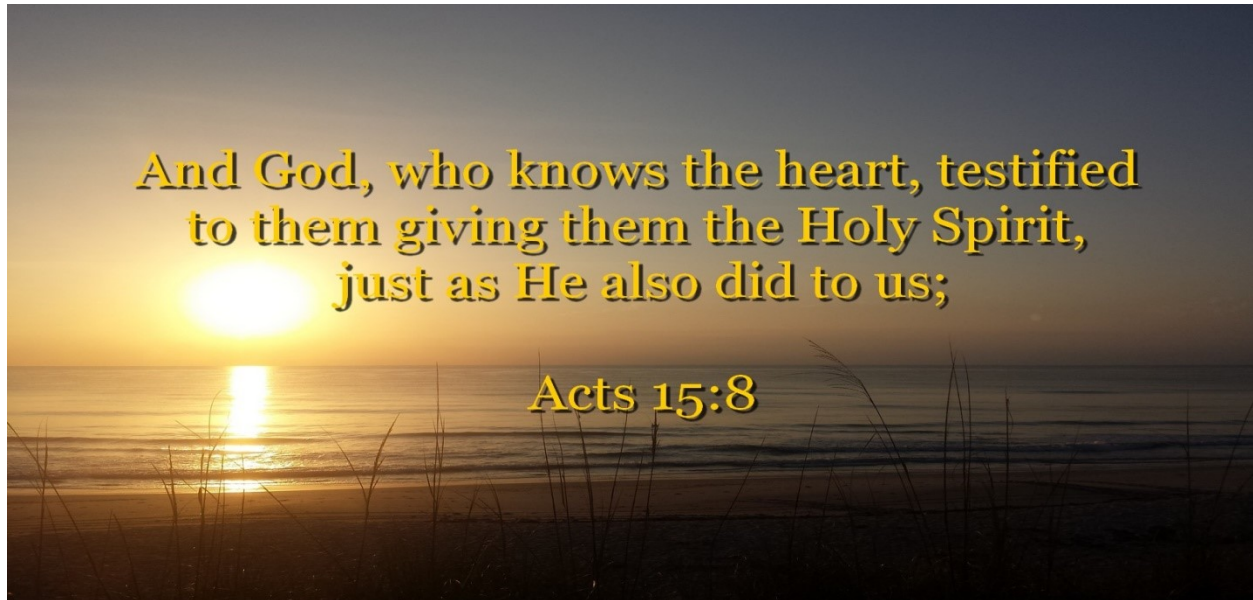
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God that He chose Peter first and many other messengers to proclaimed salvation to both Jews and Gentiles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by praising God for the choices He makes about the messengers He sends to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to new people in new lands?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 527

Testified Today



How did Peter know that the Gentiles were really saved? God gave them the Holy Spirit, just like God gave the apostles the Holy Spirit.

Peter provided very convincing proof that God wanted the Gentiles to hear the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved. Furthermore, they were saved by the Gospel and not by the works of the Law of Moses or circumcision. Please keep in mind that Peter had never eaten anything unholy or unclean in his entire life, being a devout Jew.

Peter also explained that God knows the hearts of the Gentiles. They did not have a superficial conversion or some type of religious experience without a conversion of heart and being born again. Peter proved that God knew the hearts of the Gentiles and those hearts God turned to the Lord Jesus Christ. God gave no indication whatsoever that the Gentiles had to keep the Law of Moses or undergo circumcision.

Peter understood that God had cleansed the hearts of the Gentiles. The Law of Moses and circumcision could never produce salvation. Peter was

crystal clear that salvation came by faith and believing after hearing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and nothing else.

Holy Spirit

1. **God**. Who knows the heart? God always knows the heart of people.
2. **Knows**. God knows all things at all times in all places.
3. **Heart**. God looks into every human heart and knows every thought and intention of the heart.
4. **Testified**. Having looked into the hearts of the Gentiles at Caesarea, God testified about them.
5. **Them**. God testified about them openly and publicly, including Peter and the Jews who were with him.
6. **Giving**. Living holy in the family of God means that God testified to the salvation of the Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He gave the Holy Spirit to the apostles at Pentecost following the ascension of Jesus.
7. **Spirit**. We rejoice today because God gave the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles at Caesarea as divine, public testimony to their salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the testimony of God about the Gentiles being saved at Caesarea.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the testimony of God by giving the Gentiles the Holy Spirit.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for His marvelous gift and testimony concerning the Holy Spirit.**

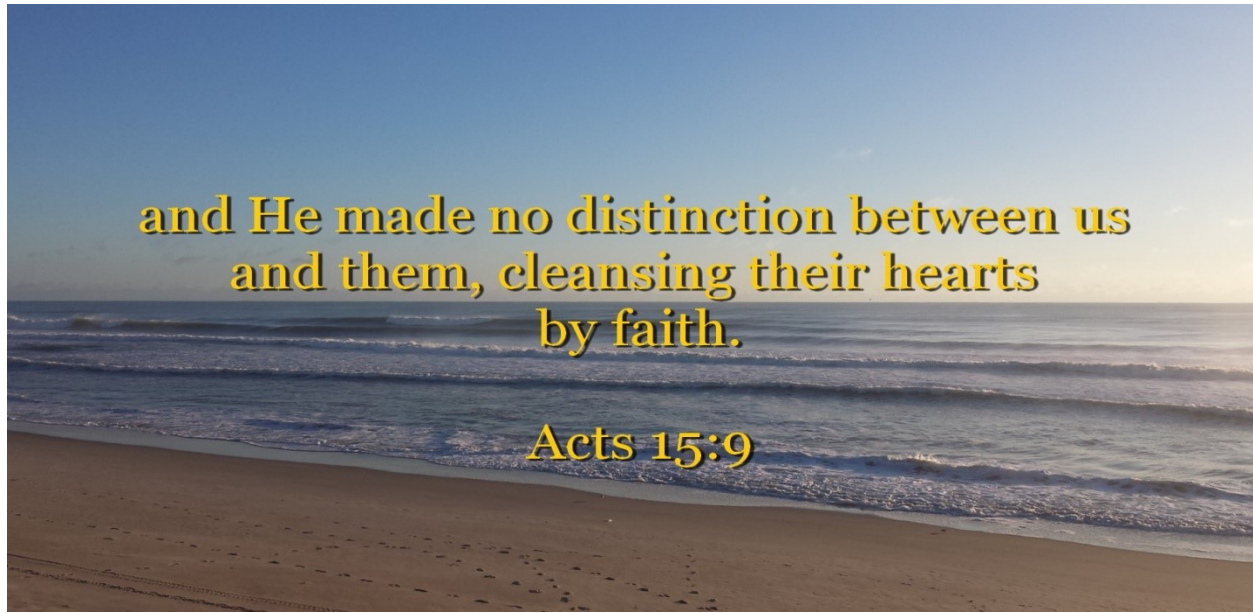
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the testimony of God concerning the Gentiles and their salvation by giving them the Holy Spirit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing over the testimony of God that the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit, just like the Jews in Jerusalem at Pentecost?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 528

Cleansing Today



What distinction did Peter recognize between the Jews and the Gentiles regarding salvation? Peter believed God Who made no distinction between the Jews and Gentiles regarding salvation.

Regarding salvation of the Jews and Gentiles, in both cases God cleansed their hearts by faith. The Pharisees and others who misunderstood the Gospel thought that the works of the Law or circumcision were essential to salvation. They actually proclaimed a false gospel based upon works. Such a gospel could not save anywhere at any time. Therefore, those Pharisees demonstrated that they believed a false gospel and were never saved. They had faith in Christ, but they never had saving faith in Christ.

Some people even today claim that Jews can go to heaven through the Law of Moses and circumcision. Such false teaching denigrates Christ and His work on the cross. As Paul so eloquently explained based upon the revelation of God, if the Law of Moses and circumcision could save anyone, then Christ died needlessly on the cross.

Peter emphasized cleansing the hearts. Only God can cleanse the hearts and God only cleanses hearts through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Faith

1. **He**. Did God make any distinction between Jews and Gentiles in regard to salvation? No, God did not make any distinction between them.

2. **Distinction**. God chose Peter to be His eyewitness of the conversion of the Gentiles at Caesarea because he wanted Peter to see that God made no distinction between Jews and Gentiles concerning salvation.

3. **Between**. God made no distinction between us and them, as Peter put it, regarding Jews and Gentiles.

4. **Them**. By saving them, referring to the Gentiles, God had brought the Gentiles into the church where they would be fellow members and fellow heirs with the Jews.

5. **Cleansing**. In both cases, God cleanses Jews and Gentiles.

6. **Hearts**. Living holy in the family of God means that God cleanses Jews and Gentiles by faith alone.

7. **Faith**. We rejoice today because salvation always rests upon one faith for both Jews and Gentiles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by understanding that God cleanses hearts by faith.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that the same faith produced the same salvation in both Jews and Gentiles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that the church has just one faith, one baptism, one Savior and one Father and one Holy Spirit.**

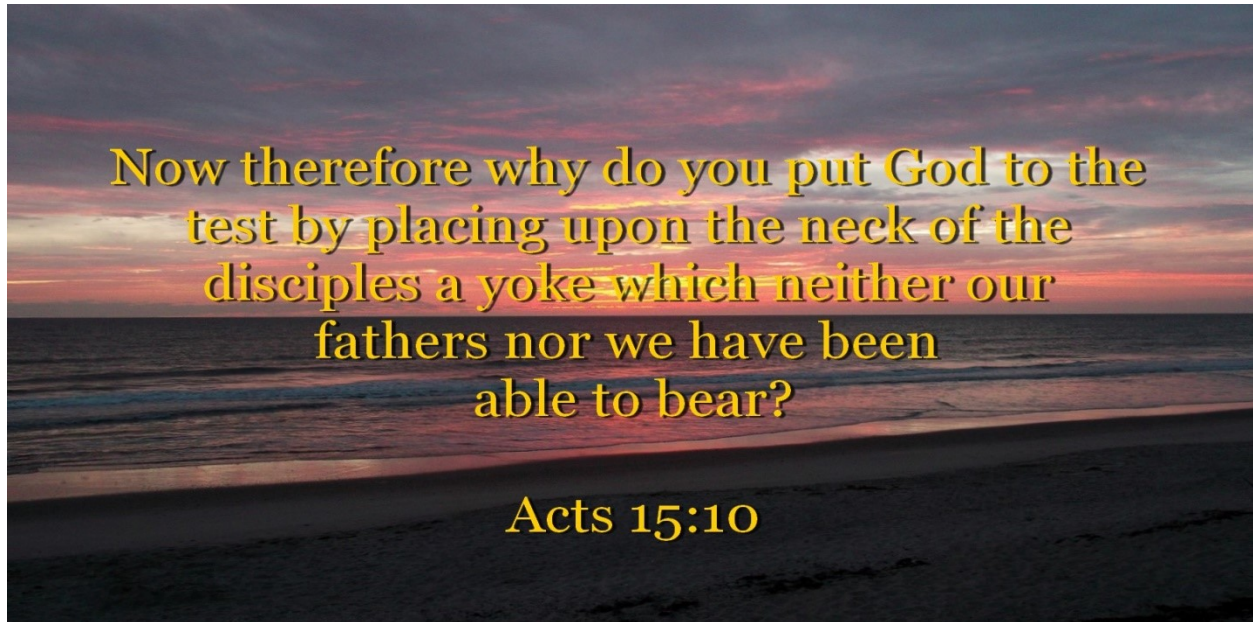
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for cleansing our hearts by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for His marvelous grace which cleanses our hearts?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 529

Test Today



Now therefore why do you put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?

Acts 15:10

Was anyone able to bear the yoke of the Law of Moses? Peter declared that no one had been able to bear that yoke upon their neck.

The Pharisees sought to impose religious tradition upon everyone in the church. They looked back at their fathers and thought they were able to keep the Law of Moses and obtain salvation through such obedience. In contrast, Peter declared the truth that everyone there knew: no one was able to keep the Law of Moses and no one was able to bear up under it. In fact, God never designed the Law of Moses to bring salvation. It served only as a reminder of sin year-by-year. As people under the Law of Moses acknowledge their sinfulness before God, they knew they needed a Savior Whom only God could provide. God cleanses hearts by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and there is salvation in no other Name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

Peter had made an absolutely convincing proof that the Pharisees and others had misunderstood the Law of Moses, circumcision, and most importantly, salvation. Only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ does God

cleanse hearts. Therefore, God placed no obligation upon the Gentiles or the Jews to keep the Law of Moses any longer, because Christ had come and given salvation to everyone who called upon His Name by faith alone.

Yoke

1. **Why**. What question did Peter ask? Peter asked why the Pharisees were putting God to the test.
2. **God**. By imposing the requirement of keeping the Law of Moses or circumcision for salvation, the Pharisees were putting God to the test.
3. **Test**. God commanded that no one put Him to the test.
4. **Yoke**. Peter described the Law as a yoke upon the neck.
5. **Fathers**. The fathers were unable to bear up under that yoke.
6. **We**. Living holy in the family of God means that we are not able to bear up under the yoke of the Law of Moses.
7. **Bear**. We rejoice today because God never intended for the church to be yoked to the Law of Moses or the requirement of circumcision.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering we have been freed once and for all from the Law of Moses.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never putting God to the test.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God that the yoke of slavery to sin has been broken once and for all by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives.**

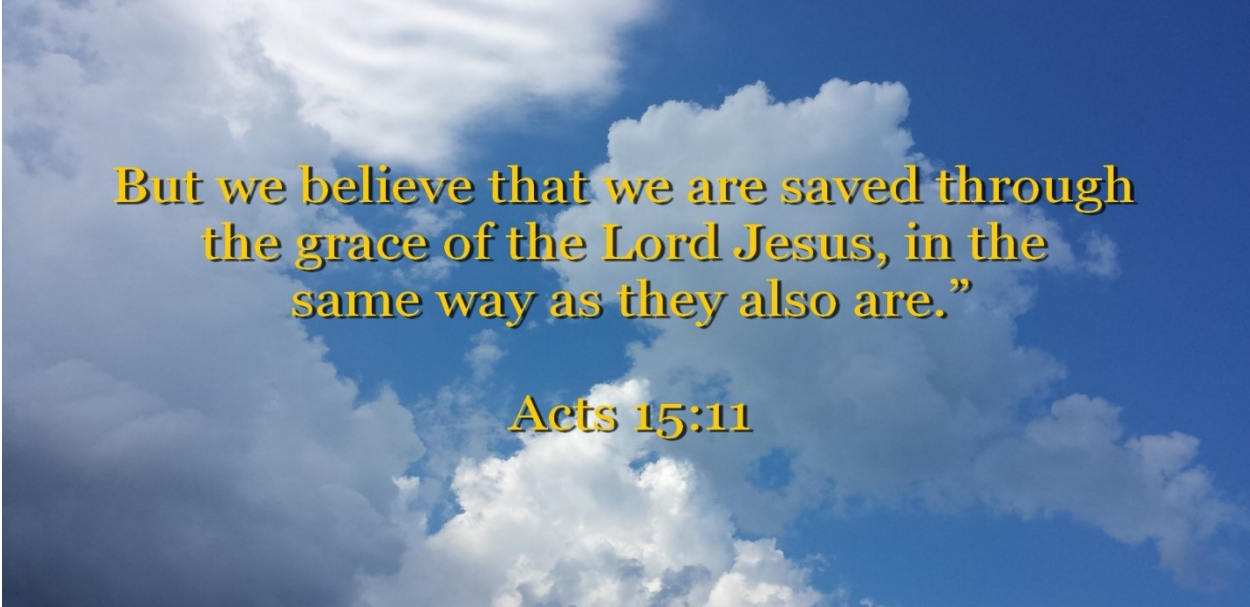
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by rejoicing in the power of God that breaks the yoke of all slavery to sin. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God that the church does not live under the yoke of slavery to sin or the Law of Moses?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 530

Saved Today



But we believe that we are saved through
the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the
same way as they also are.”

Acts 15:11

How did Peter tie the salvation of the Gentiles with the salvation of the Jews? Peter said that both groups were saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus.

Peter proclaimed the superiority of the Lord Jesus Christ in all things pertaining to salvation. Only by the grace of the Lord Jesus would anyone be saved. Grace by its very nature excludes all works by sinners. Because they are sinners, they are not good and their righteousness amounts to filthy rags.

The enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ always try to dethrone the Lord Jesus as Savior. They fail to understand the nature of grace and try to substitute the works of sinners to obtain salvation by keeping the Law of Moses or by receiving circumcision. Those things, and all the efforts of sinners, could never produce a remedy for sin. Neither the fathers nor their offspring worked their way to heaven. Abraham, Moses, Isaac, and Jacob all went to heaven by their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His grace.

God cleanses hearts by faith in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. He cleanses hearts by grace flowing from the Lord Jesus Christ to sinners. The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through our Lord

Jesus Christ. Without faith no one can please God. Without faith in Jesus as Savior, no one can see the kingdom of God or enter the kingdom of God. God cleansed the hearts of the Gentiles, just like He cleansed the hearts of Jews, by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Grace

1. **But**. What did Peter say about salvation and the Gentiles? Peter said they were saved through the grace the Lord Jesus, just like the Jews.

2. **We**. Peter used the term we, referring to the Jews saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus.

3. **Saved**. Peter had a very clear understanding of salvation by grace from the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Grace**. Grace means that we get a free gift we cannot earn or deserve.

5. **Lord**. That grace comes from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

6. **Same**. Living holy in the family of God means that we believe that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ saves both Jews and Gentiles, without distinction.

7. **Us**. We rejoice today because Peter knew that the Gentiles were saved in the same way that the Jews were saved.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the words of Peter concerning salvation for Jews and Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that both Jews and Gentiles are saved in the same way, by the grace of the Lord Jesus.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing that both Jews and Gentiles have the same Savior and the same means of salvation through the grace of the Lord Jesus.**

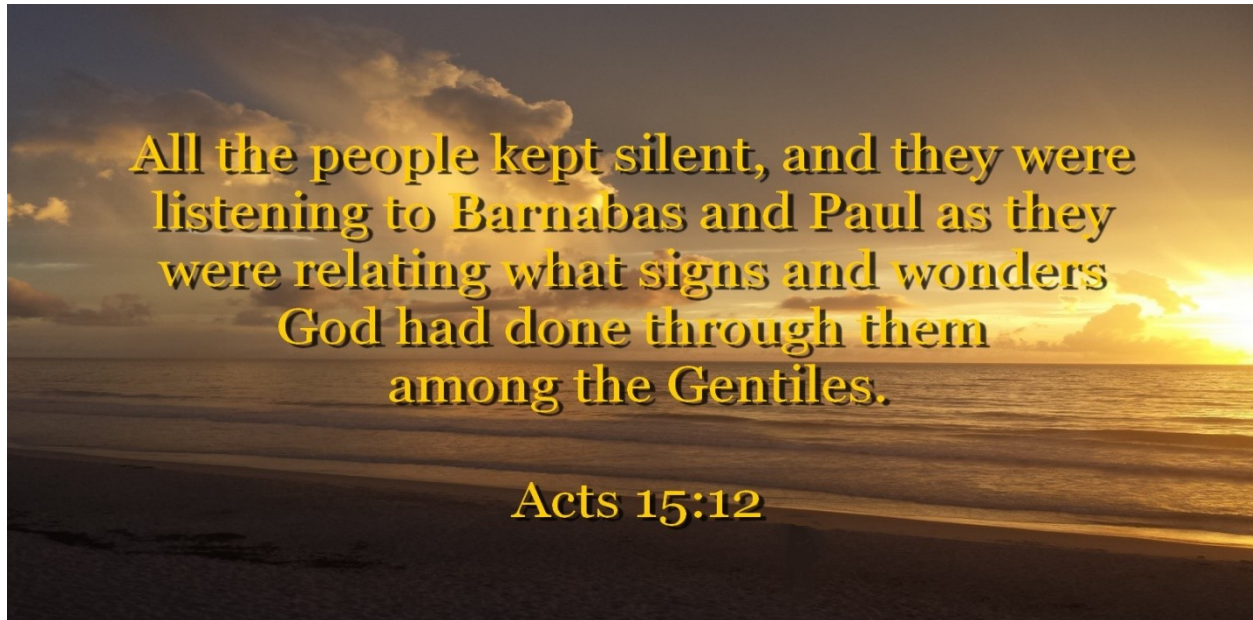
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for the grace of the Lord Jesus that saves both Jews and Gentiles. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing in Jesus who saved us by His grace?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 531

Silent Today



Why did the people remain silent while Paul and Barnabas spoke? Because they were relating the signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

The Jerusalem Council composed of the elders and the apostles, along with the congregation of believers, met to discuss the issues raised by the Judaizers who claimed that salvation required keeping the Law of Moses and circumcision. Peter addressed the group and related his experience at Caesarea with the conversion of the Gentiles and God's choice of him being the eyewitness.

Paul and Barnabas then addressed the group, who remained silent. Paul and Barnabas provided direct evidence from eyewitness testimony that God had done great signs and wonders through their hands among the Gentiles. Their personal testimony confirmed Peter's testimony concerning the Gentiles. Peter had witnessed the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles at Caesarea. Paul and Barnabas had witnessed the work of the Holy Spirit at Antioch and later at Cyprus and in Asia Minor. Taken together, the

eyewitness testimony was simply overwhelming that the Holy Spirit was at work among the Gentiles and no one sought to impose the Law of Moses or circumcision upon them.

Listening

1. **All**. What was the crowd doing when Paul and Barnabas talked? The crowd was silent, listening carefully to them.

2. **Silent**. The group listened in silence to Paul and Barnabas.

3. **Listening**. As they were listening, Paul and Barnabas delivered the message of their missionary journeys.

4. **Relating**. They were relating the great things that they had seen God do.

5. **God**. God called Paul and Barnabas to the work of proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in foreign lands.

6. **Them**. Living holy in the family of God means that God had used them to proclaim the Gospel of Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Gentiles. God used Paul and Barnabas to do signs and wonders through them among the Gentiles.

7. **Gentiles**. We rejoice today because God used Paul and Barnabas to do signs and wonders through them among the Gentiles.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for sending special messengers to the Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Paul and Barnabas standing before the Jerusalem Council and telling of the great works God had done through them among the Gentiles.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by listening silently to men like Paul and Barnabas sharing the results of the ministry God gave them to do among the Gentiles in foreign lands.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by listening carefully to missionaries appointed by God reporting on the activity of God in foreign lands. Will you live holy in the family of God today by thanking God for people willing to heed the call of God to spread the Gospel the Lord Jesus Christ in foreign lands?

HALLELUJAH !

13

James

Proclaims Today

What did James have to say? James took up at the Jerusalem Council where Peter left off concerning God taking a people for Himself. James then quoted the prophets and proclaimed that they should not trouble those people who were turning to God from among the Gentiles. James, however, observed that the converts should avoid things contaminated by idols and from fornication and from what is strangled and from blood because Moses had in every city those who preached him in the synagogues.

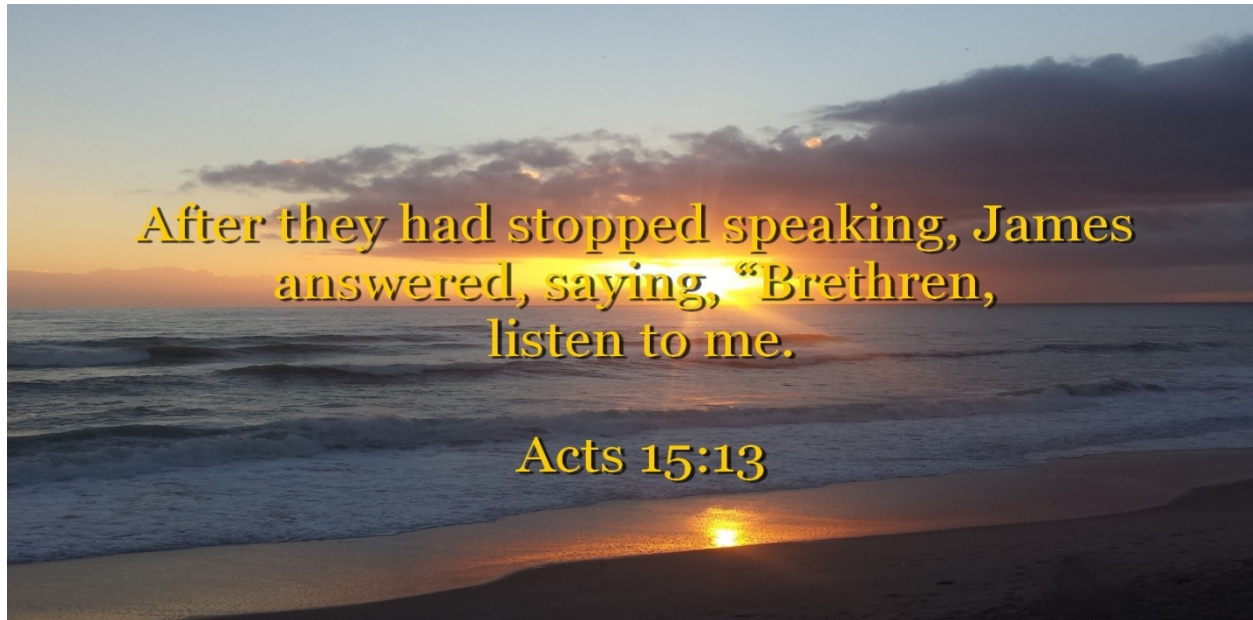
Having considered the matter, the apostles and the elders and the whole church chose Judas and Silas from the among them to accompany Paul and Barnabas as they returned to Antioch. They also sent a letter with the messengers recounting James's advice, adopted by the Jerusalem Council.

When they reached Antioch, the congregation gathered together and they delivered the letter. They read it out loud and the congregation rejoiced because of its encouragement. Judas and Silas, being prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message. Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others the word of the Lord.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 532

Stopped Today



Who spoke after Paul and Barnabas stopped speaking? James stood up and addressed the brethren.

James, the brother of John, had been murdered by King Herod earlier. The Scriptures do not show a replacement had been chosen for him among the twelve men holding the office of apostle. Paul also said that James, the brother of Jesus, was an apostle in Jerusalem after James the brother of John had been murdered (Galatians 1:19).

James, the brother of Jesus, could not meet the qualifications to hold the office of apostle because he was not a believer following Jesus in John 7:1-9. By the time of the Jerusalem Council, the church had been established in Jerusalem and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ had spread from Jerusalem to Judea to Samaria and far beyond Samaria, just as the Lord had prophesied and purposed in His message to the apostles before His ascension.

James spoke and the people listened to his words. James was not an eyewitness to the events at Caesarea, Cyprus, or Asia Minor. He brought a different perspective to the issues concerning the Gentile believers.

Answered

1. **After**. Who spoke after Peter and Paul and Barnabas? James spoke to the Jerusalem Council.

2. **They**. Paul and Barnabas said related how God had done signs and wonders through them among the Gentiles.

3. **Stopped**. James did not interrupt them, but waited until they stopped speaking before he addressed the Jerusalem Council.

4. **Speaking**. James listened silently to all that Paul and Barnabas were speaking about their missionary journeys.

5. **James**. James spoke and invited everybody to listen to him.

6. **Answered**. Living holy in the family of God means that James answered the pressing issues raised by Peter and Paul and Barnabas in their travels regarding the Law of Moses and circumcision being imposed upon the Gentile converts.

7. **Listen**. We rejoice today because James spoke and urged the Jerusalem Council to listen to him because he had something important to say from the Scriptures.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by not interrupting speakers as they relate the great works that God has done through them.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking turns speaking so that everyone can relate what God has done through them and how the Scriptures apply to the things that have happened.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for His beautiful plans to cleanse the hearts of Gentiles by faith alone.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering James calling the Jerusalem Council to listen to him. Will you live holy in the family of God today by doing things decently and in order when the saints get together to decide a spiritual matter?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 533

Taking Today



Simeon has related how God first concerned
Himself about taking from among the
Gentiles a people for His name.

Acts 15:14

Who was Simeon? James was referring to Peter, who called himself Simeon Peter in 2 Peter 1:1.

James began speaking after Peter and Barnabas and Paul had concluded their presentations. The evidence in eyewitness testimony they provided demonstrated clearly the purpose and plan of God to include the Gentiles in the church.

Peter related the Holy Spirit falling upon the Gentiles at Caesarea. He also explained that God cleansed the hearts of the Gentiles by faith, not by works of the Law of Moses or circumcision. In fact, God made no distinction between the Gentiles and the Jews when it came to salvation by faith alone. Peter urged that no one put God to the test by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear.

Paul and Barnabas related what signs and wonders had been done through them among the Gentiles. At this point, the evidence was overwhelming that God had saved the Gentiles by faith alone and confirmed their salvation and calling into the church by signs and wonders.

James began his summary of the testimony before the Jerusalem Council with the words of Peter, whom he referred to as Simeon. Simeon Peter had related at the Jerusalem Council how God has chosen him to witness the conversion of the Gentiles at Caesarea. In essence, God began the process of taking from the Gentiles a people for His own Name.

Gentiles

1. **Simeon**. How did James connect his message to the previous speakers? He started by summarizing the testimony of Simeon Peter.

2. **Related**. Simeon Peter had related the events at Caesarea and how God had started the process of bringing the Gentiles into the church.

3. **How**. Simeon Peter provided eyewitness testimony of the conversion of the Gentiles at Caesarea, the beginning point of God cleansing the hearts of the Gentiles by faith so that they entered the church.

4. **God**. God had begun a work among the Gentiles that would sweep across the world over time.

5. **Taking**. Right before their very eyes, God was taking Gentiles into the church.

6. **Gentiles**. Living holy in the family of God means that God was taking from among the Gentiles a people for His Name.

7. **Name**. We rejoice today because Jesus brought the Gentiles into the church and they became a people for the Name of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering Simeon Peter talking about the Gentiles coming into the church.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by praising God that both Jews and Gentiles stand together in the church joined together with hearts cleansed by God through the same faith.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God as one living body, filled with the one Holy Spirit, washed in the blood of Jesus, and delighting in the love of God the Father.**

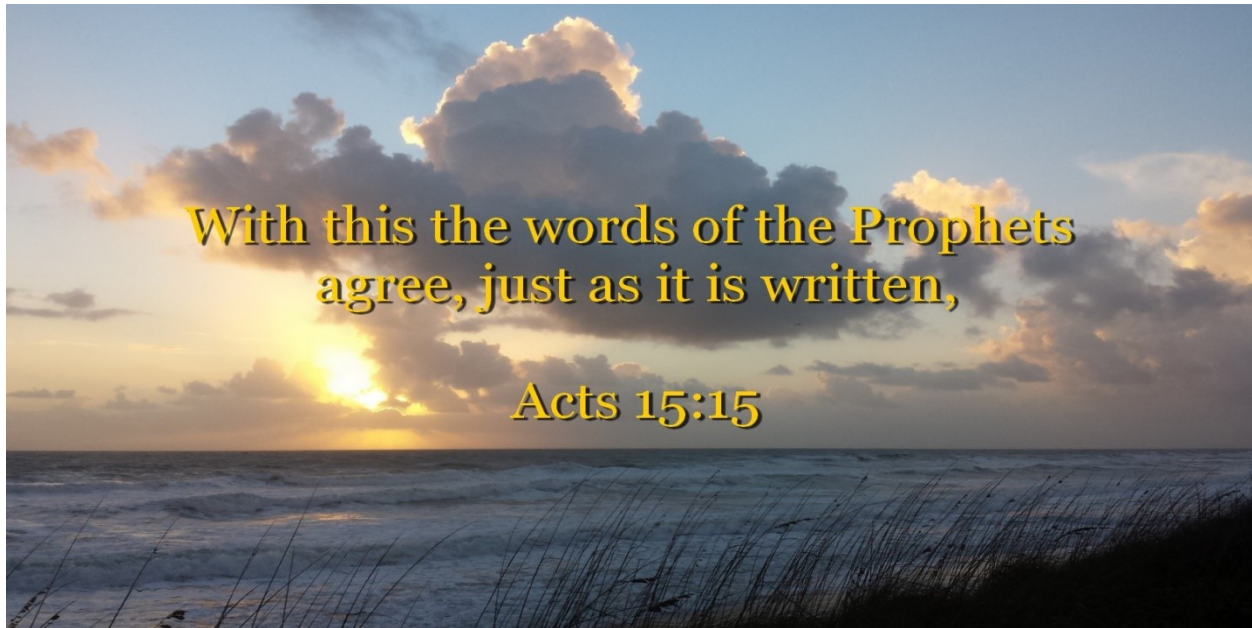
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the words of Simeon Peter at the Jerusalem Council describing God taking from the Gentiles a people for His Name. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that Gentiles cleansed in heart by God bear His Name to all the world?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 534

Prophets Today



What Scripture did James cite to confirm the testimony of Simeon Peter? James cited the prophet Amos in the Old Testament to confirm the experience of Peter and Paul and Barnabas.

James relied upon the Scripture in prophecy to interpret the experience of the early church with the Gentiles. Human experience, by itself, never should be mistaken for revelation. Satan and his demons will perform great signs and wonders to deceive people, even the elect, if possible. Therefore, witnessing counterfeit miracles always remains a distinct possibility rendering human experience alone untrustworthy.

In contrast to human experience, revelation from God always remains trustworthy. Of course, counterfeit revelation from God has deceived many people. Satan and his demons use counterfeits frequently to deceive many people.

James showed that the Scriptures contain prophecies of the events unfolding before them. God had revealed in the Old Testament that all the

Gentile nations will be called by His Name. Peter and Paul and Barnabas had witnessed firsthand the fulfillment of Scripture.

Written

1. **With**. How did James bring Old Testament prophets into the discussion? James declared that the words of the prophets agree.

2. **This**. James declared that this act of God drawing Gentiles to Himself fulfills prophecy.

3. **Words**. God inspired the words of the prophets.

4. **Of**. Not all prophets spoke under inspiration of God, but the true prophets of God spoke as the Holy Spirit moved them.

5. **The**. The prophets in the Old Testament spoke about things God revealed to them about the Gentiles in God's plan for some of them to be called by His Name.

6. **Prophets**. Living holy in the family of God means that God called some Gentiles to be called by His Name, just as the prophets proclaimed centuries before.

7. **Agree**. We rejoice today because James showed how the words of the Old Testament prophets agree with the testimony of Paul and Barnabas and Simeon Peter.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by comparing our experience with the Scriptures.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering how James showed that the experience of the missionaries agreed with the Old Testament prophets.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by interpreting our experience by comparing it with the Scriptures.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by comparing our experience with the Scriptures. Will you live holy in the family of God today by searching the Scriptures to understand your experience?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 535

Rebuild Today



What will God rebuild? God will rebuild the tabernacle of David.

James began his review of Scripture from the Book of Amos. Amos described the future time where God would rebuild the tabernacle of David which had fallen. God promised that he would rebuild its ruins and restore it. Because the Temple had been restored by the time Jesus was born of Mary, that part of the prophecy of Amos was fulfilled. James quoted more than one verse from Amos, but began with that verse to establish a timeline of events.

James quoted Amos to establish the events they were watching with the Gentiles was part of the prophecy of Amos that had been fulfilled in their lifetime. The temple had been rebuilt and it fulfilled the prophecy of Amos concerning the tabernacle of David. Therefore, the testimony of Simeon Peter and Paul and Barnabas could be compared to Scripture. James compared the testimony of Simeon Peter and Paul and Barnabas to the book of Amos and its prophecy concerning the rebuilding of the Temple and God turning to the Gentiles.

At all times all human experience should be compared to the Scriptures to interpret our experience. Using our experience to interpret Scripture often leads to a misunderstanding of both of them.

Restore

1. **Return**. Why did James quote the prophet Amos? The prophet Amos declared that God said He would return, rebuild, and restore the tabernacle of David.

2. **Rebuild**. God would rebuild the tabernacle of David which had fallen.

3. **Tabernacle**. The tabernacle of David was a special place for God's presence on earth.

4. **David**. King David enjoyed a special relationship with God and longed to build a house for God.

5. **Ruins**. The enemies of Israel had destroyed the tabernacle of David and it lay in ruins for a long time.

6. **I**. Living holy in the family of God means that God Himself declared He would return and rebuild the tabernacle of David.

7. **Restore**. We rejoice today because God keeps His promises, including His promise to restore the tabernacle of David.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by using the Scriptures to understand the experience of missionaries laboring for God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering the specific promises God made in the Scriptures so that we may worship God as He fulfills them in due time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by rejoicing together as we take notice from Scripture of the plans of God spanning centuries and longer.**

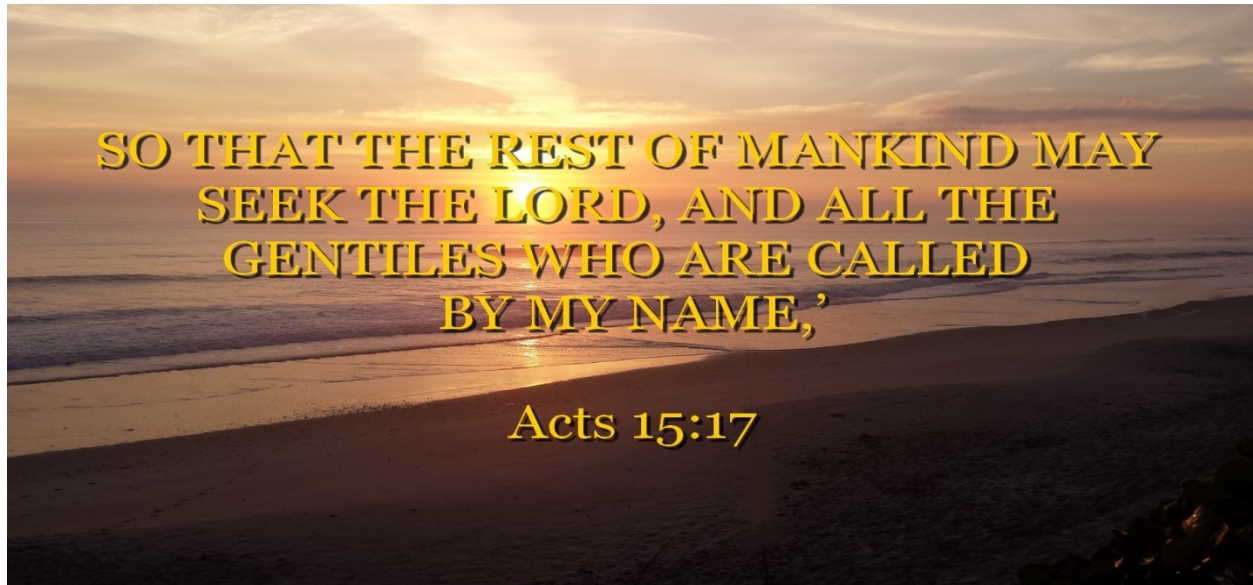
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by worshiping God for the way He fulfills Scripture through the work of people committed to doing His will. Will you live holy in the family of God today by doing the will of God and fulfilling His plans for your life?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 536

Seek Today



Who will seek the Lord? The rest of mankind and all the Gentiles who are called by My Name will seek the Lord.

At the Jerusalem Council Simeon Peter had related the conversion of the Gentiles at Caesarea. James then stood up and declared that the words of the prophet Amos had been fulfilled.

Amos had prophesied in the Old Testament that the Lord will return and rebuild the tabernacle of David and restore it. After that restoration by the Lord, then the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles were called by My Name.

Please notice that James declared that the prophecy of Amos had been fulfilled at Caesarea when the Gentiles called upon the name of the Lord. Peter had proclaimed the gospel to them and their hearts were cleansed by faith and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, James then laid the theological framework for understanding God's plan of bringing the Gentiles into the church. God

fulfilled the prophecy of Amos by cleansing the hearts of the Gentiles by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Called

1. **So**. What did Amos the prophet say about seeking the Lord? Amos said the rest of mankind may seek the Lord.

2. **Rest**. James quoted Amos the prophet regarding the timing of the Gentiles calling upon the Name of the Lord. They would call upon the Name of the Lord after the Temple had been rebuilt and restored.

3. **Seek**. God provided a way for the Gentiles to seek Him, along with the rest of mankind.

4. **Lord**. James understood that Simeon Peter had witnessed the Gentiles turning to the Lord by faith.

5. **All**. God expanded the promise of turning to Him to all the Gentiles who are called by My Name.

6. **Gentiles**. Living holy in the family of God means that James quoted the prophet Amos to show that God had provided a way for all the Gentiles who are called by His Name to seek the Lord.

7. **Called**. We rejoice today because God called Gentiles from many different lands and cultures to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for His great plans to bring Gentiles to saving faith.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that God intended for the Gentiles to seek the Lord.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for bringing Jews and Gentiles together as the people called by the Name of Lord.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking God for faithful messengers who brought the word of the Lord to the Gentiles in many foreign lands. Will you live holy in the family of God today by rejoicing that we are the saints called by the Name of the Lord?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 537

Known Today



Who made those things known long ages ago? The Lord made those things known from long ages ago.

James, speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit, quoted the prophet Amos to show that God had prophesied long ago that the Gentiles would call upon Him for salvation. Amos also provided a timeline of events. Before the Gentiles would call upon the name of the Lord, God would restore and rebuild the tabernacle of David. Only then would all the Gentiles who are called by His Name seek the Lord.

Rather than argue human wisdom and human thoughts, James wove together (1) the experience of Peter at Caesarea as an eyewitness of the Gentile conversion with (2) the prophecy of Amos who said the Lord made those things known from long ago (before Amos). By doing so, James effectively showed that the conversion of the Gentiles was not a contradiction of the Old Testament, but a fulfillment of God's prophecy from long ago. The time had come for the Gentiles to call upon the Name of the Lord.

James was now ready to draw a conclusion based upon Scripture about how to deal with the Gentiles calling upon the name of the Lord and finding salvation. God had prophesied about those events, and said nothing about keeping the Law of Moses or circumcision.

Long Ago

1. **Says**. What did God say long ago? Through Amos the prophet God says that He makes known the salvation of the Gentiles.

2. **Lord**. The Lord planned the salvation of the Gentiles and revealed that plan through Amos hundreds of years before it came to pass.

3. **Who**. The Lord is the One who reveals His plans to His prophets so that His people can rejoice in His salvation given to them.

4. **Makes**. The Lord makes these things happen by His loving power.

5. **Things**. He makes known the things happening today to the prophets who spoke for Him long ago.

6. **Known**. Living holy in the family of God means that God makes known the future to the prophets who spoke for Him about the salvation of the Gentiles after God had rebuilt and restored the tabernacle of David.

7. **Long**. We rejoice today because what God revealed through the prophets long ago remains a blessing for us as Gentiles today.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by praising God for revealing the future through the prophets who spoke for Him long ago.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by loving God more for bringing people to faith today according to His plans revealed long ago.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by studying the prophecies of old in the Scriptures so that we may understand what God is doing today and tomorrow.**

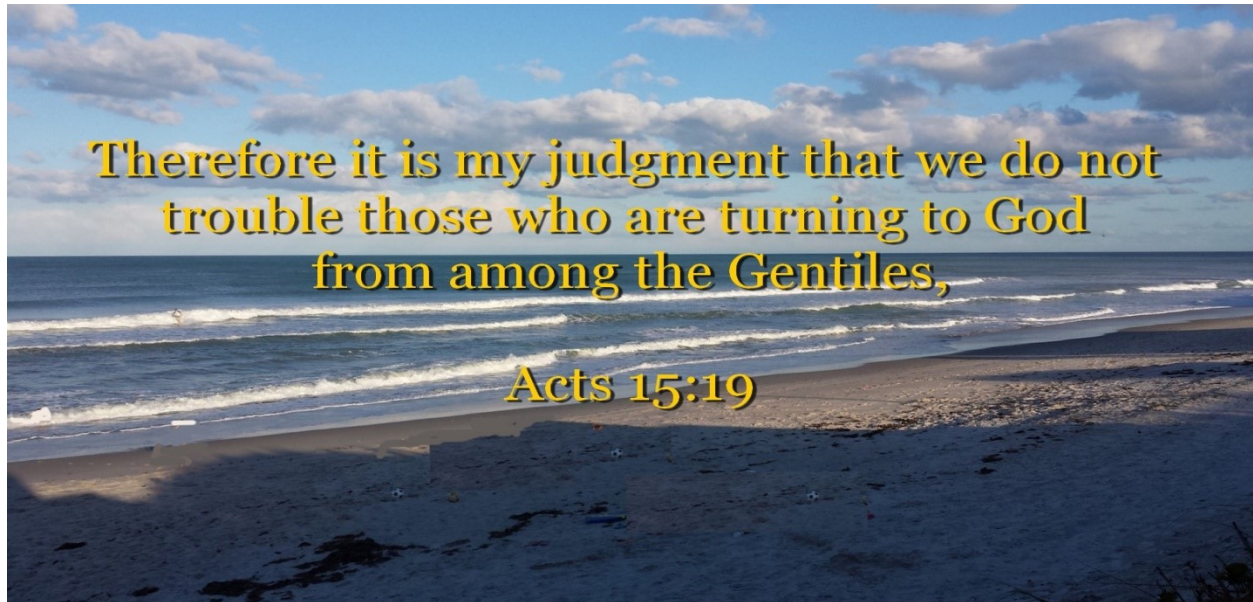
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by delighting in the prophecies of God that He gave to the prophets long ago. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking time to read the prophets of the Old Testament to see what they say about God's plans for the future?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 538

Judgment Today



What judgment did James share? James said that the Jerusalem Council should not trouble those who were turning to God from among the Gentiles.

James reached that conclusion after hearing from Paul and Barnabas and Simeon Peter. James explained that the Old Testament prophet Amos had prophesied about God calling some Gentiles to be called by His Name.

The Jerusalem Council had to make serious decisions about the Gentiles entering the church. Through the ministry of Paul and Barnabas many Gentiles had come to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ with little or no experience practicing the Law of Moses.

Some people from the sect of the Pharisees taught that you cannot be born again without keeping the Law of Moses and circumcision. When they proclaimed that teaching in Antioch, the church there decided to send the matter to the Jerusalem church. The apostles and the elders at Jerusalem could provide insight into the proper resolution of the matter.

Simeon Peter and Paul and Barnabas all understood that salvation was by faith alone. They never believed that salvation came through keeping the Law of Moses or circumcision.

Trouble

1. **Therefore**. How did James reach judgment about the Gentiles? James compared the testimony of Peter and Paul and Barnabas with the Scriptures and reached his judgment.

2. **My**. James indicated the judgment was his judgment. He did not indicate it was a matter of revelation directly to him.

3. **Judgment**. James reached his judgment after hearing eyewitness testimony from Peter and Paul and Barnabas and considering the words of the prophet Amos from long ago

4. **Not**. James concluded that they should not trouble the Gentiles.

5. **Trouble**. James picked the word trouble to describe a yoke too heavy to bear and religious practices unrelated to salvation.

6. **Turning**. Living holy in the family of God means that James sought the best for the Gentiles turning to the Lord while avoiding troubling them with burdens they could never carry.

7. **Gentiles**. We rejoice today because the Jerusalem Council, and James in particular, heard the testimony from eyewitnesses and searched the Scriptures that provided the perfect judgment about the behavior of Gentiles joining the church.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering James sharing his judgment about the best course of action for the Gentiles.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for moving James to avoid burdening the Gentiles and troubling them with great yokes and burdens.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord Jesus that He moved the hearts of men to love the Gentiles coming into the church.**

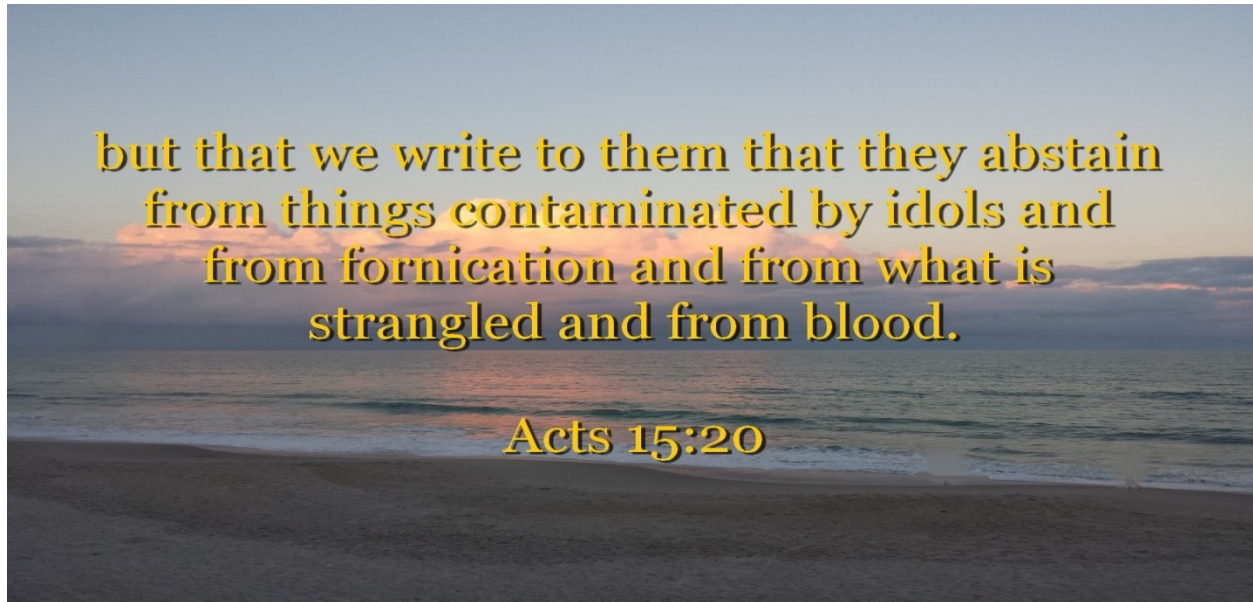
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by not placing great burdens upon the Gentiles turning to the Lord. Will you live holy in the family of God today by avoiding laying heavy burdens upon people based upon traditions lacking scriptural support?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 539

Write Today



What did James suggest as a resolution? James suggested that they write some advice to the church at Antioch.

James focused upon four things for the Church of Antioch to follow. First, the Gentiles should abstain from things contaminated by idols. Second, they should also abstain from fornication. Third, they should abstain from what is strangled. Fourth, they should abstain from blood.

James never said that if they indulged in any of those four things that they would lose their salvation or never obtain salvation. James focused upon four things that Jews found especially offensive in Gentile behavior. Those things were contained in the Law of Moses, but James was not suggesting that they reimpose the Law of Moses. Instead, James sought to minimize friction between Jews and Gentiles attending the same local church.

The Jerusalem Council made strong theological decisions. Peter, Paul, and Barnabas were strong proponents of salvation by God cleansing the

hearts of people by faith alone. They opposed all claims that salvation came through keeping the Law of Moses or circumcision.

Abstain

1. **But**. What did James suggest they write? James suggested that they write about things the Gentiles should avoid.

2. **We**. James said we should write, indicating the Jerusalem Council should put pen to paper.

3. **Write**. James judged they should write specific items for the Gentiles to avoid.

4. **Abstain**. They should abstain from things contaminated by idols.

5. **Fornication**. They should abstain from fornication.

6. **Strangled**. Living holy in the family of God means that they should abstain from what is strangled.

7. **Blood**. We rejoice today because James recommended that the Gentiles abstain from blood.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by considering how to avoid causing needless impediments to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by not putting stumbling blocks in front of people.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by carefully considering our conduct which may upset unbelievers needlessly.**

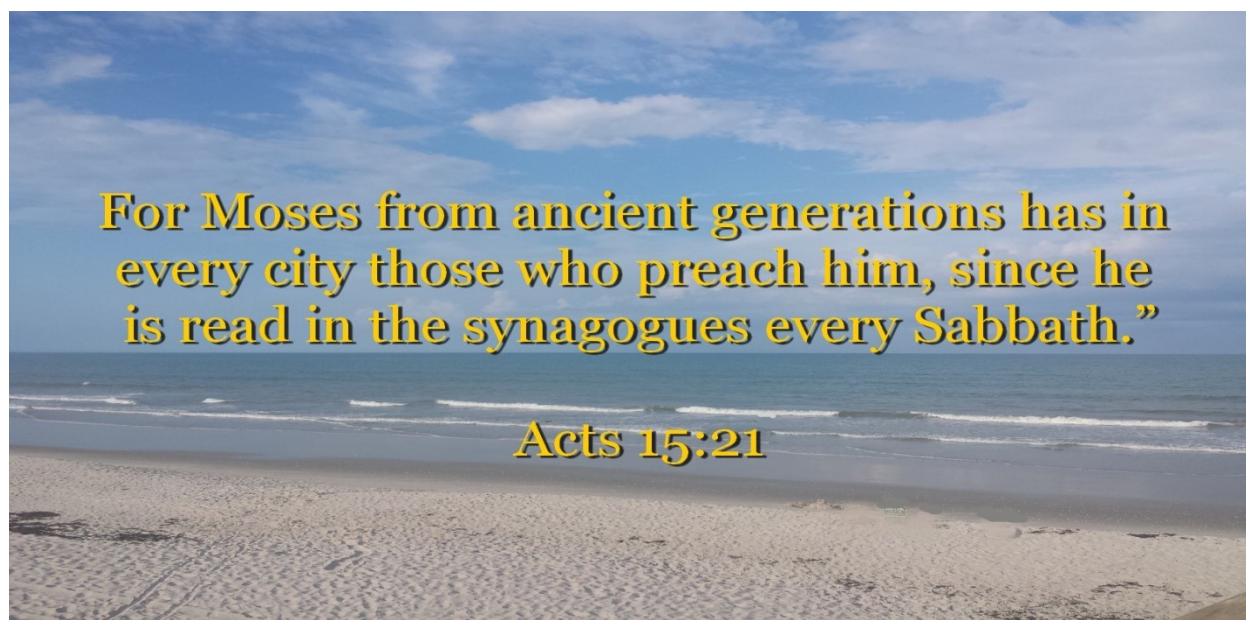
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by abstaining from things that needlessly cause other people to stumble. Will you live holy in the family of God today by becoming a Jew to the Jews in a Gentile to the Gentiles, but always putting Christ first?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 540

Moses Today



What rationale did James offer about proper Gentile behavior? James had heard about the fierce persecution by the Jews of Paul and Barnabas and so provided guidance on avoiding unnecessary conflict between Gentiles and Jews.

James was not advocating that the Law of Moses be imposed upon the Gentiles. James concerned himself with the fact that Moses was read and preached in every synagogue on every Sabbath. If the Gentiles were going to attend the synagogues, then they need to be mindful about the four things that James reminded them to abstain from for the purpose of pacifying the Jews in the synagogues.

Paul and Barnabas understood the Gospel and the power of faith producing salvation through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because all the things that James suggested were works, no one should be confused about salvation in good works. Doing good works of any kind never saved anyone. Salvation never rested upon the actions of sinners, but upon grace

through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Good works follow salvation, but good works never provide the means of salvation.

Synagogues

1. **Moses**. Why should the Gentiles abstain from certain things to avoid further conflict with Jews? They should remember that the Jews read Moses every Sabbath.

2. **Generations**. The Jews had read Moses from ancient generations.

3. **City**. The Jews preach Moses in the synagogues.

4. **Preach**. The Jews preach Moses and urge others to follow Moses, but they are unable to carry the burden of the Law of Moses.

5. **Read**. The people in the synagogues read Moses.

6. **Synagogues**. Living holy in the family of God means that the saints should remember that the Jews preach and read Moses in their synagogues.

7. **Sabbath**. We rejoice today because the saints need to be careful to avoid offending the Jews who read Moses every Sabbath as they gather together in their synagogues.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking steps to avoid needless conflicts with the Jews who read and preach Moses in every city.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses is read in the synagogues from ancient generations.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by presenting Jesus to the people in the synagogues where Moses is read every Sabbath.**

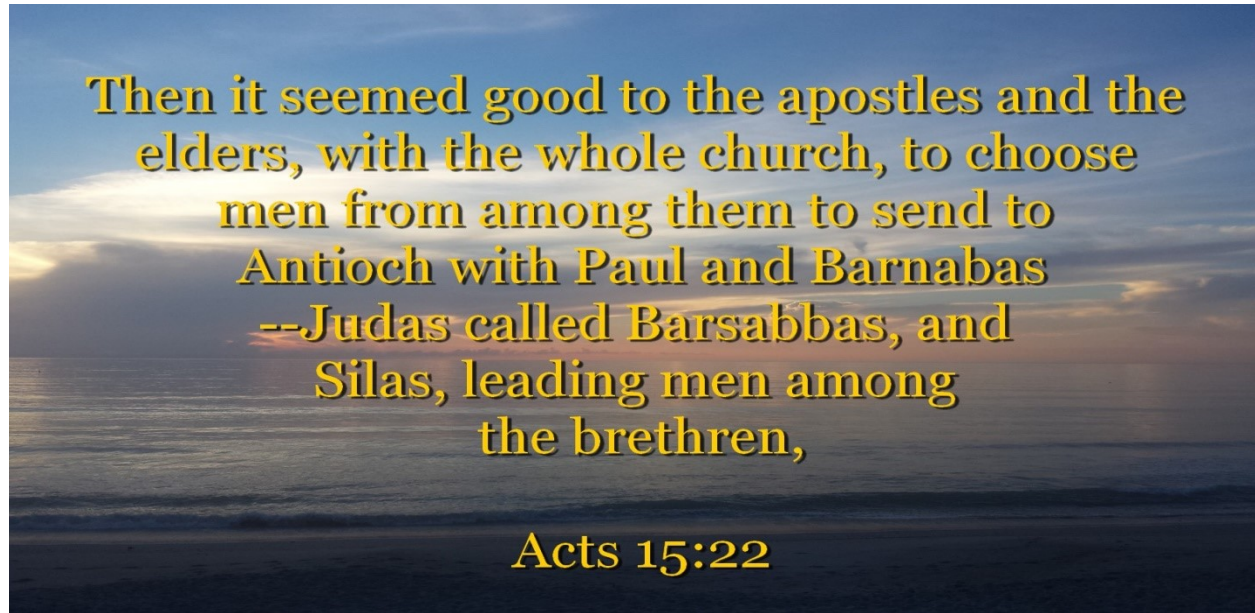
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that Moses is read and preached in the synagogues every Sabbath. Will you live holy in the family of God today by abstaining from unnecessary things that may hinder the proclamation of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to religious people?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 541

Choose Today



What did the apostles and elders in the whole church decide to do? They decided to send Barsabbas and Silas back to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

The Jerusalem Council had drawn up a written document and intended to send it back to Antioch. The apostles and the elders in the whole church decided it was to send some leading men to Antioch as well. Those men were Judas called Barsabbas and Silas. They were leading men among the brethren at Jerusalem.

Paul and Barnabas and Barsabbas and Silas would journey together and take the letter from the Jerusalem Council back to Antioch. The whole matter arose when some Judaizers arrived in Antioch and began teaching people that they must keep the Law of Moses and circumcision in order to go to heaven. After much dissension and debate, the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas and some other men to Jerusalem to consult with the apostles and elders in the church there.

Now that the matter had been decided by the Jerusalem Council, the apostles, the elders, and the whole church sent leading men with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch to deliver the written letter in person.

Send

1. **Seemed**. What seem good to the Jerusalem church? It seemed good to send two men to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

2. **Apostles**. The apostles consented to that decision.

3. **Elders**. The elders of the church consented to that decision

4. **Church**. The whole church consented to that decision.

5. **Choose**. Together they chose two men to accompany Paul and Barnabas to Antioch.

6. **Barsabbas**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jerusalem church chose Judas called Barsabbas to accompany Paul and Barnabas as they went back to Antioch.

7. **Silas**. We rejoice today because the Jerusalem church also chose Silas to go with Paul and Barnabas.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by finding unity among both the leadership in the church and the whole congregation in making important decisions.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by selecting men of good reputation to do important tasks.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by sending church representatives to carry important messages to other churches.**

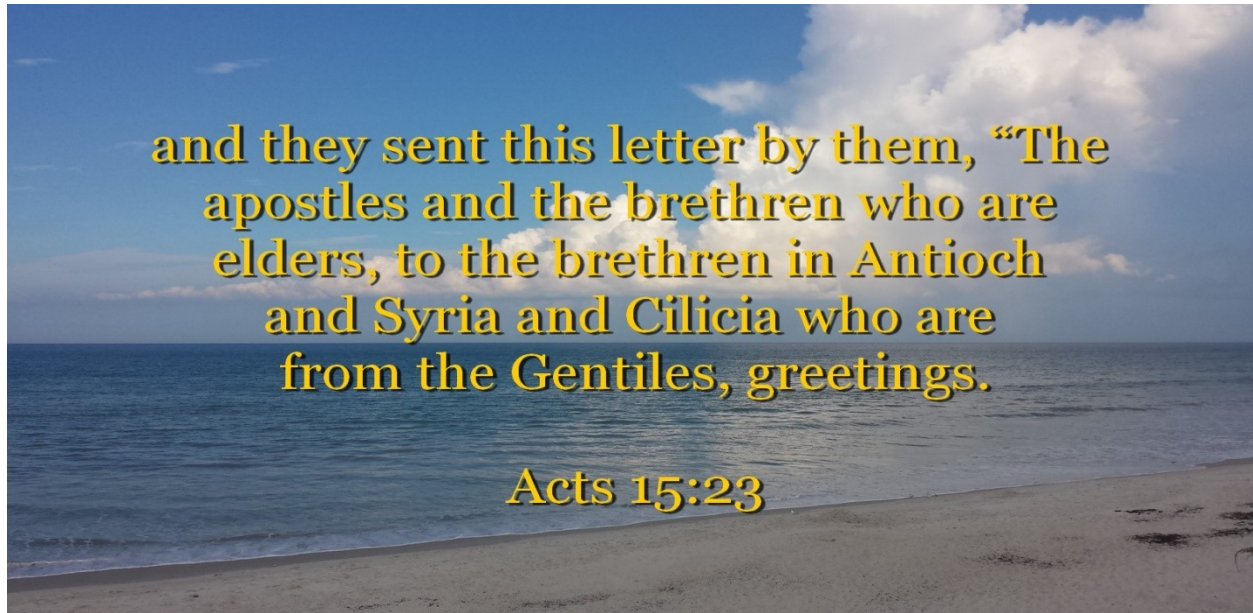
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by doing important tasks the church congregation asks us to perform on their behalf. Will you live holy in the family of God today by going where the entire church asks you to go?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 542

Letter Today



What letter did they send with the messengers they sent to Antioch? The letter started with greetings from the apostles and the brethren and the elders in Jerusalem.

After James rendered his judgment, the Jerusalem Council agreed upon a letter to send back to Antioch. They intended the letter to go beyond the brethren in Antioch. They also hoped the letter would make its way to Syria and Cilicia, neighboring regions.

Paul and Barnabas had been proclaiming the gospel across Asia Minor and Cyprus. Many Gentiles had come into the church by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul and Barnabas had always made it a habit to go to the synagogues first in each city they visited. They proclaimed the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the synagogues before they turned to the Gentiles.

The conversion of the Gentiles caused dissension and dispute in the church at Antioch. They sought guidance from the Jerusalem church and received it in the letter sent back to them.

Greetings

1. **Sent**. Who sent a letter? The apostles and elders sent the letter to Antioch.
2. **Letter**. The letter contained the advice the church at Antioch sought from the Jerusalem church.
3. **Apostles**. The apostles sent the letter.
4. **Elders**. The elders sent the letter.
5. **Brethren**. They sent the letter to the brethren in Antioch that requested the advice from the Jerusalem church.
6. **Antioch**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jerusalem church sent the letter out not only to Antioch, but also to the Gentiles from the areas of Syria and Cilicia.
7. **Greetings**. We rejoice today because the church in Jerusalem sent the letter with greetings to the church in Antioch.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by turning to the church leadership for spiritual guidance.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by having a unified church leadership settle important doctrinal matters.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by greeting other churches with letters.**

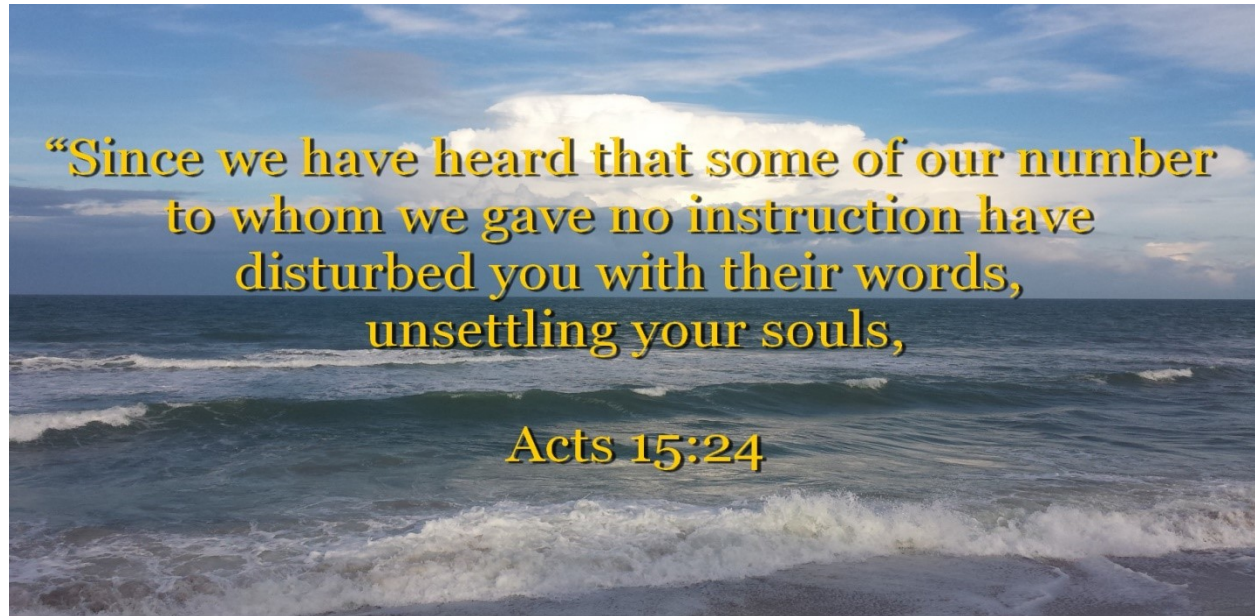
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by looking to church leaders doing the will of God to help resolve doctrinal matters. Will you live holy in the family of God today by consulting Godly church leaders concerning doctrinal matters?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 543

Disturbed Today



Who unsettled the church at Antioch? Some people from Jerusalem went to Antioch and proclaimed that no one could be saved unless they kept the Law of Moses and circumcision.

The Jerusalem Council wrote back to Antioch explaining that those false teachers from Jerusalem did not receive that instruction from the Jerusalem church. Clearly, the Jerusalem Council sought to distance itself from those false teachers and their false doctrine.

Some people traveled to foreign churches and spread false doctrine on purpose. Judaizers sought to impose the Law of Moses and circumcision upon all the believers, especially the Gentiles who came to faith in Christ. Paul and Barnabas at Antioch strongly opposed such false teachers and their false doctrine. They sought to pollute the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ by mixing works with faith.

Paul and Barnabas preached the only true Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. That gospel rests upon faith given by God based upon His grace. It has nothing to do with keeping the Law of Moses or receiving circumcision.

Unsettling

1. **Heard**. What news had reached the Jerusalem church? Antioch had informed the Jerusalem church that some men from Judea had unsettled the souls of some saints in the church of Antioch.

2. **Number**. Those men were of the number of the Jerusalem church.

3. **No**. The Jerusalem church wanted Antioch to know that the church did not send those men.

4. **Instruction**. The Jerusalem church had not instructed them to teach those things at Antioch or even to go to Antioch.

5. **Words**. The false teachers from Jerusalem disturbed the saints at Antioch with their words.

6. **Unsettling**. Living holy in the family of God means that false teachers from Judea were unsettling the souls of saints at Antioch.

7. **Souls**. We rejoice today because while some false teachers unsettled the souls of the saints at Antioch, the Jerusalem church commissioned representatives carrying a letter to Antioch to resolve all spiritual matters.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by letting others know we do not support false teachers.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by sending messengers immediately to correct false doctrine taught by people from our local church.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by standing firmly against false doctrine, no matter who teaches it.**

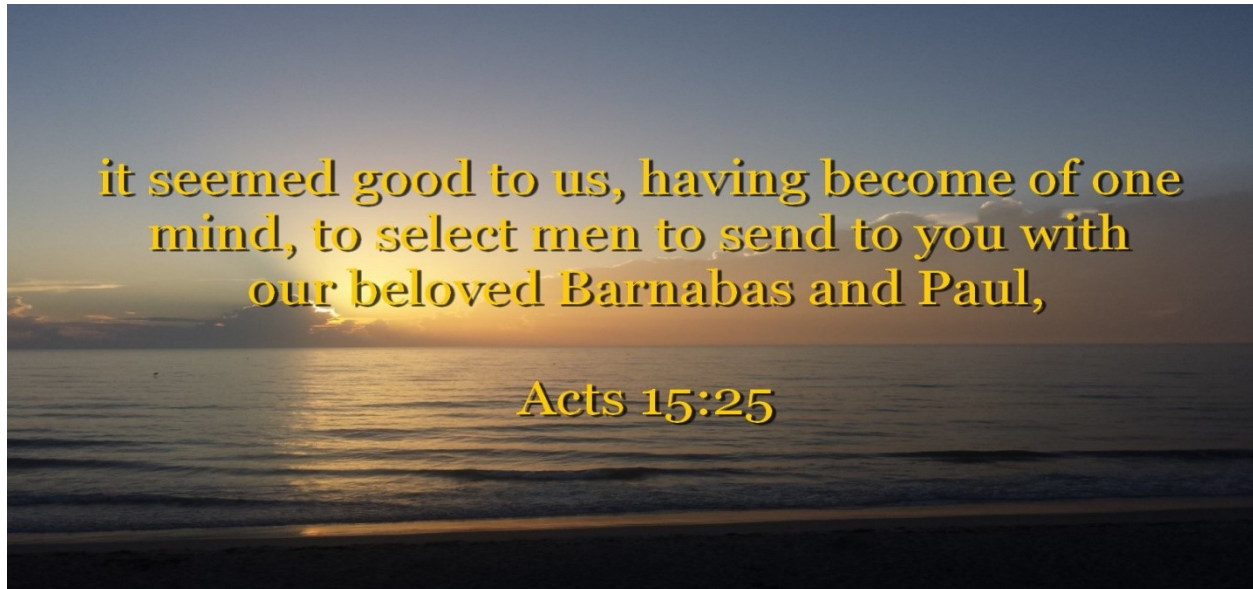
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by overlooking false doctrine taught by people from our church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking immediate corrective action to oppose false teachers from your own church?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 544

One Mind Today



it seemed good to us, having become of one mind, to select men to send to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

Acts 15:25

Why did the Jerusalem church send men with Paul and Barnabas? The Jerusalem church had become of one mind on the matter and they wanted to communicate with two more unified voices.

The testimony of Paul and Barnabas and Simeon Peter regarding the conversion of the Gentiles unified the Jerusalem church. The Jerusalem church did not decree sound doctrine, but derived their doctrine from the Old Testament and New Testament revelation.

Paul received the gospel by direct revelation from God. He did not receive it from the Jerusalem apostles or any other men. Independently, Simeon Peter received a vision from God about the Gentiles. God told Simeon Peter that what God had cleansed, no man should consider unholy or unclean. At first Peter did not understand God's communication.

At Caesarea Peter witnessed the conversion of the Gentiles. God cleansed their hearts by faith in the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles, just like He fell upon the apostles at Pentecost. Salvation by faith

alone was already well known in Jerusalem and elsewhere by the time of the Jerusalem Council.

Select Men

1. **Good**. What seemed good to the church at Jerusalem? It seemed good to them to send extra men with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch.
2. **One**. The church made that decision because they were unified as one.
3. **Mind**. The church came to one mind.
4. **Send**. The church wanted to send extra men with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch.
5. **Men**. The church then selected men to accompany Paul and Barnabas as they delivered the church's letter to Antioch.
6. **Barnabas**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jerusalem church loved Barnabas.
7. **Paul**. We rejoice today because the Jerusalem church also loved Paul, the same man who used to persecute the Jerusalem church, going house to house and dragging off men and women for believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by sending extra messengers to visit other churches.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by selecting men we love to visit other churches.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for faithful men in the local assembly who can be entrusted to do important things.**

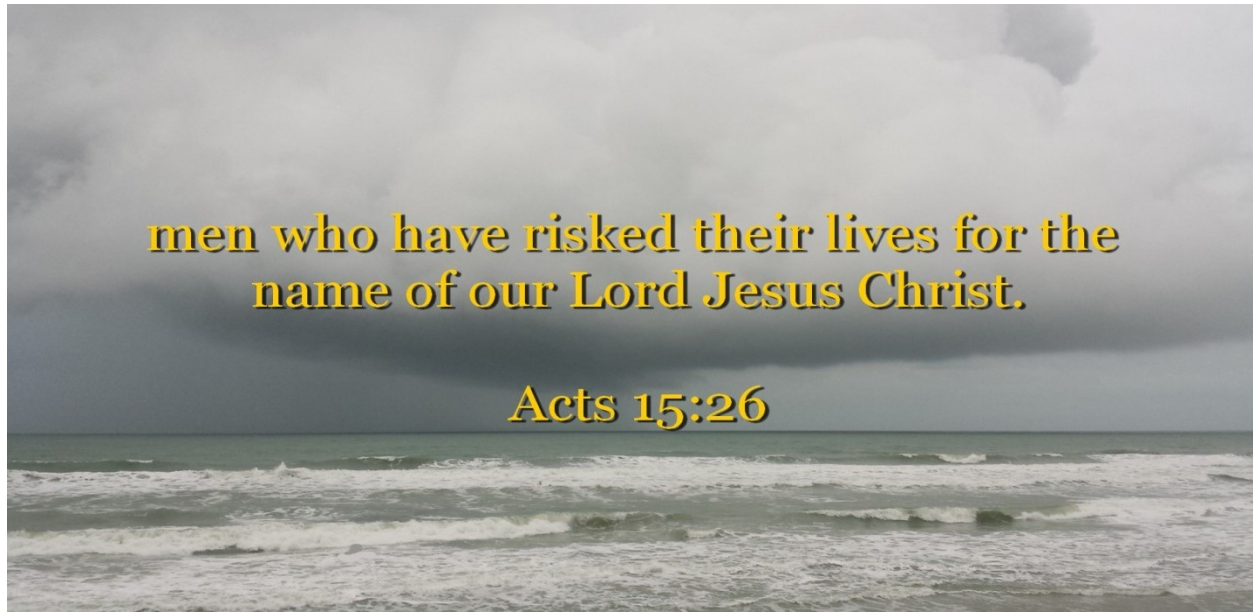
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by devoting ourselves to be a faithful servant to the Lord Jesus and His church. Will you live holy in the family of God today by faithfully serving the Lord Jesus Christ in your local church?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 545

Risked Today



How did the Jerusalem church feel about Paul and Barnabas? The Jerusalem church held Paul and Barnabas in high regard because they risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul and Barnabas had related their missionary journeys to the Jerusalem church. Before that testimony, Paul had risked his life at Damascus preaching Jesus in the synagogue there. The Jews sought to kill him and he escaped from Damascus.

Spreading the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ as chosen servants of God carried great risk for Paul and Barnabas. The Jews stirred up opposition in many cities to Paul and Barnabas who proclaimed the Lord Jesus Christ to both Jews and Gentiles. The persecution drove them from city to city and place to place. The persecutors became more organized in their attacks upon Paul and Barnabas. At Lystra, Paul was stoned, dragged outside the city, and left for dead.

The Jerusalem church called Paul and Barnabas beloved. Saints who regularly risk their necks for the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ deserve high honor in the church. They love Jesus more than they love their own lives.

Lives

1. **Men**. Why did the Jerusalem church hold Paul and Barnabas in such high esteem? The church highly esteemed Paul and Barnabas because they risked their lives for the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Who**. Paul and Barnabas had earned a particular reputation for courage.

3. **Risked**. They courageously risked their souls for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Lives**. Luke actually used the Greek word for souls meaning that the Paul and Barnabas risked their souls.

5. **Name**. The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ meant that Paul and Barnabas identified themselves with Jesus and all that He is as God.

6. **Our**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jerusalem church looked upon Paul and Barnabas as friends of the Jerusalem church and also brothers in Christ by referring to “our Lord.”

7. **Lord**. We rejoice today because the Lord Jesus Christ motivated Paul and Barnabas to spread His Gospel to new lands and new people.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by risking our souls for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ when He calls upon us to do so.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for His messengers who frequently risk their souls for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by praising God for calling some people into dangerous ministries for His Name's sake.**

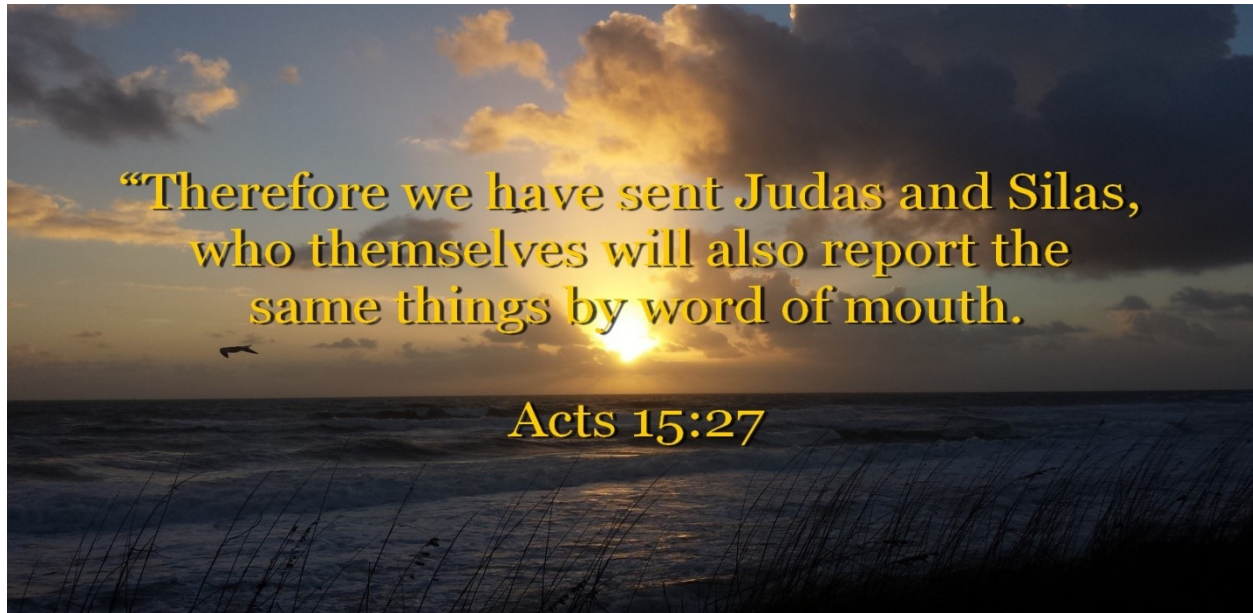
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by thanking Jesus for people who risk their souls for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Will you live holy in the family of God today by living daily for Jesus, even if you do not risk your soul every day for the sake of His Name?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 546

Judas and Silas Today



Who did the Jerusalem Council send with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch? The Jerusalem Council sent Judas and Silas along with Paul and Barnabas.

The Jerusalem Council intended that Judas and Silas would report by word-of-mouth the same things contained in the letter. Because Judas and Silas were spiritual men, highly esteemed by the leadership and congregation, they were the perfect choices to send along with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch.

The church of Antioch had requested help in dealing with certain Judaizers would come down from Jerusalem to Antioch. Those Judaizers were saying that unless you kept the Law of Moses and circumcision, you cannot go to heaven. They had unsettled the souls of many people at Antioch.

Therefore, Paul and Barnabas and Simeon Peter addressed the church at Jerusalem. They provided eyewitness testimony of the conversion of the Gentiles and their baptism with the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, Paul and

Barnabas and been to many different regions and witnessed the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ turning people to Himself for salvation.

Report

1. **Therefore**. Who did the Jerusalem church select to accompany Paul and Barnabas on their return trip to Antioch? The church selected Judas called Barsabbas and Silas.

2. **Sent**. The Jerusalem church sent those two men along with the letter on the Jerusalem Council.

3. **Barsabbas**. Judas called Barsabbas along with Silas were leading men in the congregation of Jerusalem.

4. **Silas**. Silas went on to have fruitful ministry with Paul as they traveled together later.

5. **Leading**. As leading men of the congregation, they exemplified Godly behavior for the entire congregation to follow.

6. **Men**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jerusalem church selected two males to go to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

7. **Congregation**. We rejoice today because the congregation at Jerusalem not only had the apostles, and otherwise men able to craft good solutions with practical applications for the church of Antioch and other churches facing similar issues.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Jerusalem church selected leading men from among the congregation.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by living in obedience to God so that we are ready to serve the needs of the local church when called upon.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by answering the call of the local assembly to be a messenger of the church as needs arise.**

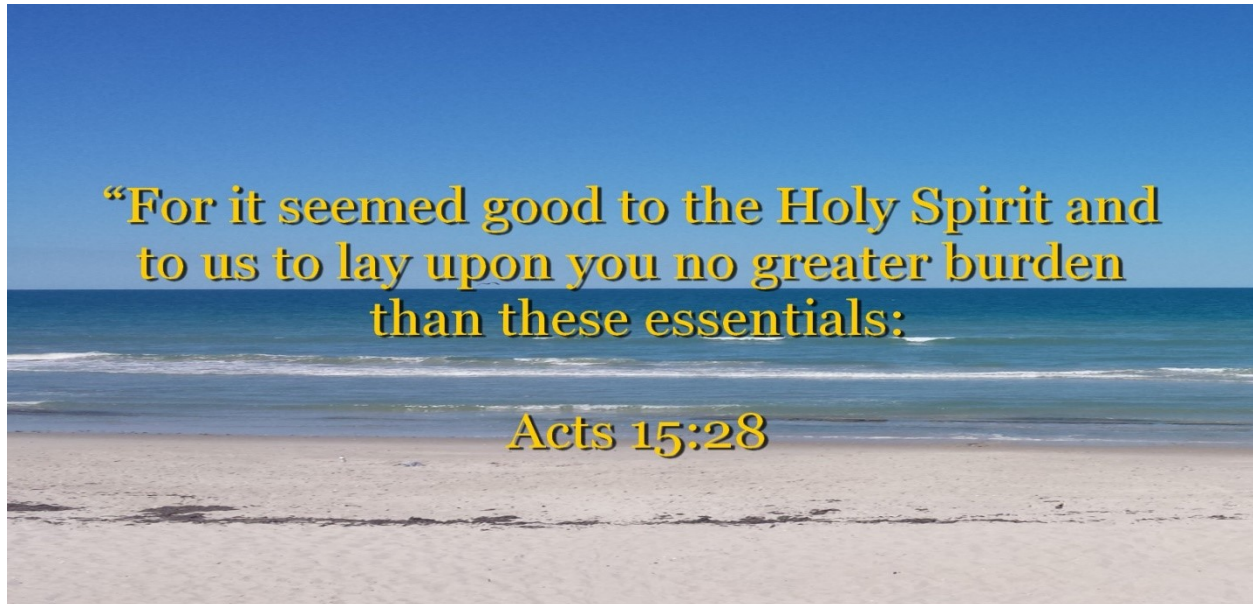
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering Barsabbas and Silas accompanying Paul and Barnabas on their return trip to Antioch. Will you live holy in the family of God today by living in Him every day so that you will be ready tomorrow to be a trusted messenger for Jesus Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 547

Burden Today



What explanation did the Jerusalem Council give about their instructions? The Jerusalem Council explained that the Holy Spirit desired to place no greater burden upon the Gentiles than several essentials described in their letter. The Jerusalem congregation agreed with the desires of the Holy Spirit.

The church in Jerusalem had a thorough discussion about the Law of Moses and circumcision. They understood that the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ brought salvation by faith alone, without works of any kind. Peter, Paul, and Barnabas had all witnessed the power of faith converting the Gentiles. Peter had witnessed the Holy Spirit fall upon the Gentiles at the moment of salvation. Paul and Barnabas had witnessed the Lord do many signs and wonders among the Gentiles in many different lands.

The Jerusalem Council understood that in every synagogue across many lands Moses was read there every Sabbath. The Jerusalem Council also understood that the Law of Moses was a burden upon them which they could never keep. The Law of Moses was designed by God to show people how

sinful they were and how much they needed a Savior. The Law of Moses could never provide salvation for anyone at any time. Therefore, the Jerusalem Council decided to minimize conflict with the Jews in the synagogues.

Essentials

1. **For**. What did the Jerusalem Council think about burdening the church at Antioch? The Jerusalem church did not want to place a greater burden than the essentials they described in their letter.

2. **Good**. It seemed good to the Jerusalem church and the Holy Spirit to place no greater burden upon the church at Antioch, indicating that they understood that even the essentials they described would be something of a burden.

3. **Spirit**. The Holy Spirit led the Jerusalem church to focus upon those for essentials contained in the letter.

4. **Greater**. By using the term greater in the context of a greater burden, the Jerusalem church and the Holy Spirit were indicating that the Gentiles would have to carry something of a burden in dealing with the Jews in the synagogues.

5. **Burden**. At times for the sake of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the unity of their brethren, some believers have to sacrifice some freedom.

6. **Those**. Living holy in the family of God means that the Jerusalem Council outlined a few essentials, which in themselves created a burden.

7. **Essential**. We rejoice today because those essentials were designed to reduce or eliminate friction with Jews in the synagogues.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by laying no greater burdens upon people than the essentials.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by regulating our freedom in Christ according to the needs of the moment.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by considering the weaknesses of other people before we exercise our strengths.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by being careful to minimize offense. Will you live holy in the family of God today by regulating your freedom according to the needs of the moment?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 548

Abstain Today



What were the essentials described by the Jerusalem Council? The essentials consisted of four things directed towards minimizing conflict with the Jews in the synagogues.

First, the Gentiles were to abstain from things sacrificed to idols. The apostle Paul would develop that concept in much greater detail as he wrote to the Corinthians later. Paul was especially concerned that the conscience of some weaker believers would not be violated.

Second, the Gentiles should keep themselves from blood. Pursuant to the Law of Moses, animals should be drained of their blood before eating. The people of Israel were not to consume blood, as some idolaters drank the blood of animals.

Third, the Gentiles should abstain from things strangled. The Law Moses provided that same prohibition against eating things that been strangled.

Fourth, the Gentiles should keep themselves from immorality. Paul used a particular Greek word to describe immorality, porneia. Porneia included not only fornication (sex before marriage), but all types of immorality before and after marriage.

The Jerusalem Council said if the Gentiles would abstain from such things they would do well. The Jerusalem Council was concerned about the Gentiles mixing with Jews, particularly in the synagogues. The Jerusalem Council was not issuing mandates to another church but rather offering friendly advice.

Do Well

1. **You**. What four things did the Jerusalem Council recommend the Gentiles abstain from? Idols, blood, strangled, and porneia.

2. **Abstain**. In order to avoid placing too great a burden upon the Gentiles, the Jerusalem Council outlined four essentials.

3. **Sacrificed**. The Gentiles should abstain from things sacrificed to idols.

4. **Idols**. Idolaters often offered meat sacrifices to their gods, which Gentiles should avoid.

5. **Blood**. The Gentiles should abstain from eating blood.

6. **Strangled**. Living holy in the family of God means that Gentiles should abstain from eating things that are strangled.

7. **Porneia**. We rejoice today because Gentiles should abstain from all forms of immorality (porneia).

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by taking care to abstain from things that needlessly offend others.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by avoiding all forms of immorality.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by balancing our freedoms in Christ against the weakness found in many other people.**

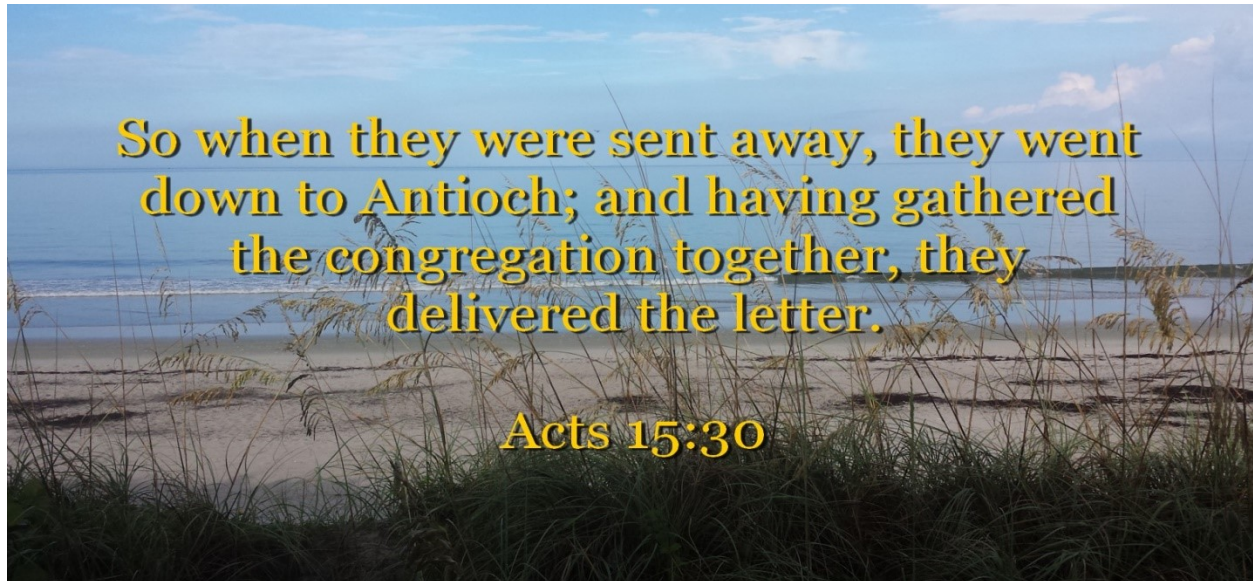
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering holiness towards God will remedy a multitude of problems. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking care with your liberty in Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 549

Gathered Today



How did the Jerusalem messengers deliver the letter to Antioch? They gathered together the whole congregation for the delivery of the letter.

The apostles, the elders at Jerusalem, and the entire congregation sent the letter to the church at Antioch. That letter was the product of the whole congregation. Therefore, the church at Jerusalem intended that the church at Antioch receive the letter, in fact, the church at Jerusalem intended that not only Antioch but also the churches of Cilicia and Syria.

The Jerusalem Council intended their letter to be for consumption by all the churches and all the saints. They did not direct their message only to the leadership at Antioch or any other place. Of course, they intended the leadership to follow the principles laid down in their letter, but they did not intend to hide its contents from every saint.

The Jerusalem Council sent a letter by the hands of trusted men. Paul and Barnabas were known to both the Jerusalem church and the Antioch church. Both churches loved them and held both of them in high esteem. The Jerusalem church also sent Judas and Silas to Antioch, so that they could

report by word-of-mouth the contents of the letter. This abundance of witnesses testified to the veracity of the letter.

Delivered

1. **Sent**. How did the saints deliver the letter to Antioch? The men from Jerusalem gathered the whole church together at Antioch and then delivered the letter.

2. **Antioch**. The church at Antioch had requested guidance from the church in Jerusalem regarding the need to keep the Law of Moses and circumcision.

3. **Gathered**. The men from Jerusalem brought the letter to Antioch for the benefit of the whole church there.

4. **Congregation**. Having arrived at Antioch, they gathered together the entire congregation.

5. **Together**. They did not present the letter just to the elders of the congregation, but to the entire congregation at the same time.

6. **Delivered**. Living holy in the family of God means that the men from Jerusalem delivered the letter to the entire congregation at Antioch because the contents of the letter affected everyone in the church at Antioch.

7. **Letter**. We rejoice today because the letter from the Jerusalem Council provides a good example of how to temper freedom in Christ so as not to give unnecessary offense to anyone.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that the Jerusalem Council issued its letter to the entire congregation at Antioch.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God that the Holy Spirit helped the Jerusalem Council to place no greater burden upon the saints at Antioch than necessary.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by worshiping God for helping the saints find a fairly simple resolution to their issues regarding the Law of Moses and circumcision.**

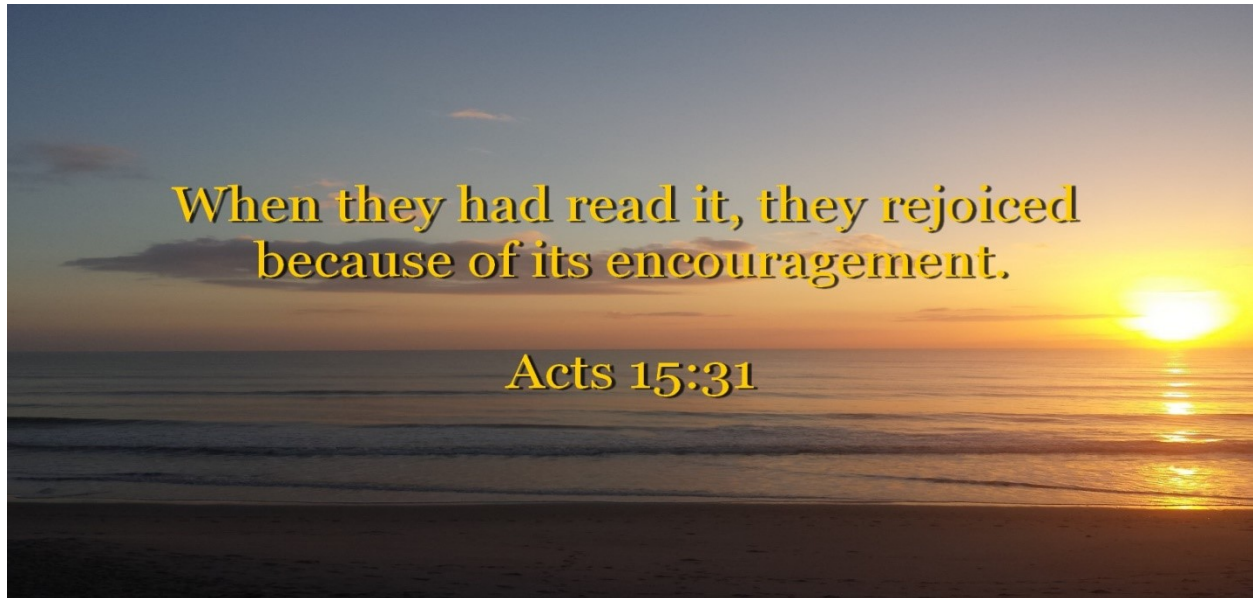
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering that the men from Jerusalem gathered the entire congregation for the delivery of the letter. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering that every person in the congregation is important to God?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 550

Rejoiced Today



How did the church at Antioch react to the letter from the Jerusalem Council? They rejoiced because of its encouragement.

The Jerusalem Council had sent a letter to the church in Antioch answering the issues they had raised about keeping the Law of Moses and circumcision. Paul and Barnabas had traveled to Jerusalem to discuss the matters with the apostles, the elders and others of the congregation of Jerusalem.

Some men had come down from Jerusalem to Antioch and began proclaiming that unless they kept the Law of Moses and were circumcised, they would not go to heaven. Such false teaching greatly disturbed the church and unsettled the souls of some people there. Paul and Barnabas hotly contested the matter with them, but the church decided in the end to send the matter to Jerusalem to receive further guidance.

The blessing of having many Gentiles come into the church was met with resistance by false teachers. Some of the sect of the Pharisees who had become believers pushed for keeping the Law of Moses and circumcision.

The Jerusalem church provided a letter to Antioch with the guidance they requested.

Encouragement

1. **When**. What did the saints at Antioch appreciate about the letter from the Jerusalem Council? They appreciated the encouragement of that letter when they read it.

2. **They**. The men from Jerusalem gathered together the entire congregation of saints at Antioch and then they read the letter.

3. **Read**. The saints at Antioch read the letter gathered together as one large group.

4. **Letter**. The letter brought great joy to the saints at Antioch because it provided an elegant, simple answer to the questions they posed to the Jerusalem church.

5. **Rejoiced**. The saints at Antioch rejoiced when they read the letter.

6. **Because**. Living holy in the family of God means that we should be careful to use our words to encourage people, because all saints need encouragement from God.

7. **Encouragement**. We rejoice today because the Jerusalem Council brought encouragement to the saints at Antioch with the wise guidance they offered in their letter to Antioch.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by encouraging one another.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by rejoicing over the encouragement that other saints send our way.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking the Lord Jesus that He provides encouragement for us every day by His presence in our lives.**

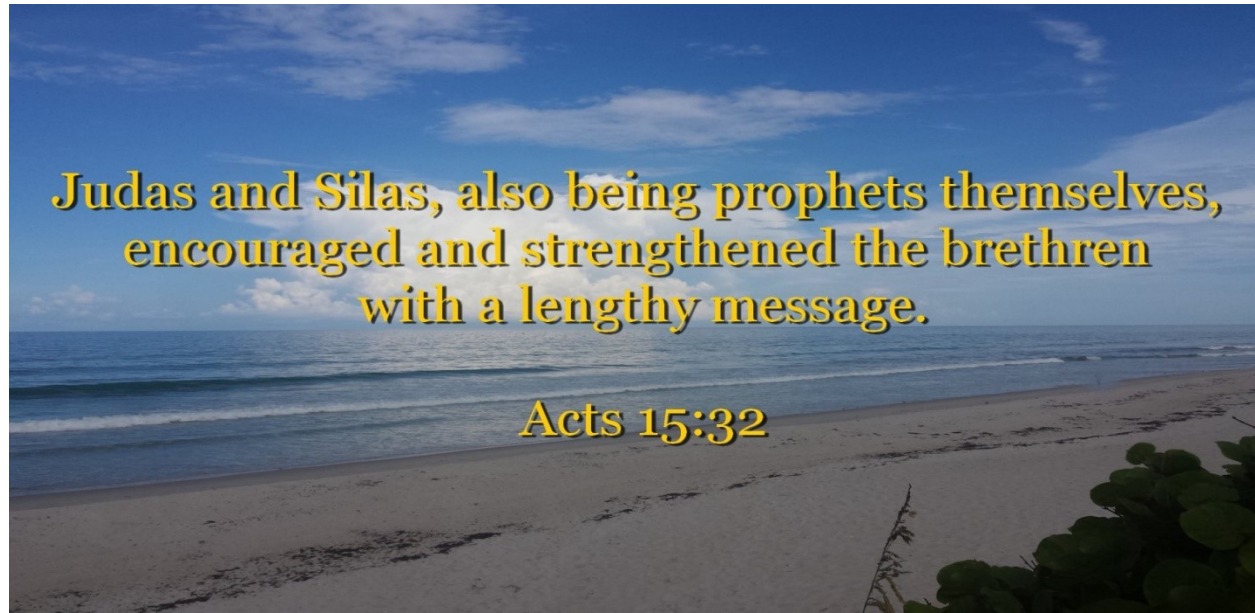
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by taking time to write things that encourage other believers. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sending some encouragement to other believers?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 551

Prophets Today



What did Judas and Silas do in Antioch? They encouraged and strengthened the brethren with a lengthy message.

Judas and Silas accompanied Paul and Barnabas back to Antioch. They were carrying the letter from the Jerusalem Council, answering questions about the Law of Moses and circumcision. The Jerusalem Council sent Judas and Silas to present the letter by word-of-mouth because they were eyewitnesses of what happened at Jerusalem. Furthermore, they had the confidence of the Jerusalem Council as spiritual men of high esteem.

Judas and Silas were both prophets. Prophets received revelation from God and spoke the revelation of God to the people. They were well-qualified to carry the letter from the Jerusalem Council. They were also equipped by the Holy Spirit with words that would strengthen and encourage the congregation at Antioch. The church at Antioch was blessed with many spiritual gifts, such as prophets and teachers.

The Holy Spirit gifted believers with spiritual gifts that they should use every day. The Spiritual Gift of Prophets concerns receiving revelation from

God and then sharing that revelation with other saints. The Spiritual Gift of Teachers concerns proclaiming the revelations others have received, contained in the Scriptures, to the saints.

Strengthened

1. **Judas**. Who were the prophets that accompanied Paul and Barnabas back to Antioch? Judas and Silas were prophets.
2. **Silas**. The Jerusalem church sent Paul and Barnabas back to Antioch along with Judas and Silas from the Jerusalem church.
3. **Prophets**. Judas and Silas were prophets.
4. **Encouraged**. They encouraged the saints at Antioch with a lengthy message.
5. **Strengthened**. They also strengthened the saints at Antioch.
6. **Brethren**. Living holy in the family of God means that all the saints need to use their spiritual gifts every day to strengthen and encourage the other believers.
7. **Message**. We rejoice today because Judas and Silas brought a lengthy message for the saints at Antioch, using their spiritual gifts to the glory of God for the benefit of the congregation.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts to the glory of God every day.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering that Judas and Silas, being prophets, brought a lengthy message to strengthen and encourage the brethren in Antioch.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts to strengthen and encourage the brethren in our local assemblies.**

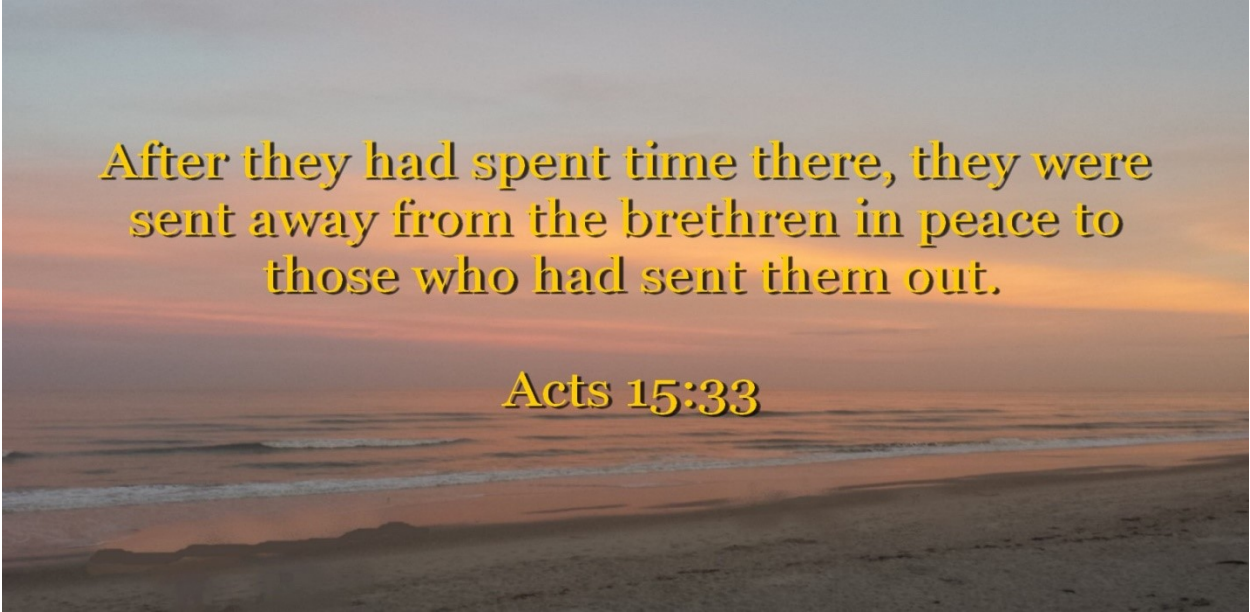
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by using our spiritual gifts to strengthen and encourage the local assemblies. Will you live holy in the family of God today by worshiping God for giving us spiritual gifts that we can use to strengthen and encourage other saints?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 552

Time Today



After they had spent time there, they were sent away from the brethren in peace to those who had sent them out.

Acts 15:33

What happened with Judas and Silas after they had delivered their message and spend some time in Antioch? The brethren sent the men in peace back to Jerusalem who had accompanied Paul and Barnabas down to Antioch.

When Jesus sent out the twelve disciples in the various cities, He told them that their blessing of peace would rest upon the house that received them. The same peace attended the ministry of Judas and Silas in Antioch. As prophets of God, they used their spiritual gifts to bless the congregation at Antioch.

As the body of Christ grew in the world, more and more local assemblies were springing up in many new lands. The New Testament had not been written yet and so God provided doctrine and instruction for them through various spiritual gifts in the congregation. The Spiritual Gift of Prophecy helped believers in these different congregations know and abide by the will of God. Later the Scriptures of the New Testament would be given by God and recorded on paper. God would take measures to preserve those

inspired documents so they would be dispersed by copying. As those documents were copied, changes occurred to them. Many thousands of copies of the New Testament exist today. By studying the various copies, we can rest assured that we have a copy of the New Testament as written by the original writers.

Peace

1. **After**. Did the church in Antioch enjoy the ministry of Judas and Silas? Yes they did, because they sent Judas and the rest of the men from Jerusalem away in peace.

2. **Time**. Judas and Silas spent time in ministry at Antioch after delivering the letter.

3. **Sent**. When the time came, the church at Antioch sent Judas and the men from Jerusalem home.

4. **Away**. As those men went away, the church at Antioch gave them their blessing.

5. **Brethren**. The brethren in Antioch sent them away in peace.

6. **Peace**. Living holy in the family of God means that the traditional Hebrew blessing of peace had been brought into the church and coupled with the new peace that surpasses all understanding that only Jesus gives.

7. **Sent**. We rejoice today because Judas and some men who came with him left to go home to Jerusalem with the peace the church at Antioch had bestowed upon in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by visitors returning home with our blessing of peace.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by thanking God for visitors who come to the local assembly to strengthen and encourage us.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for the diversity of gifts in the local assembly.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by welcoming visitors when they arrive and sending them home with our blessing of peace. Will you live holy in the family of God today by taking strength and encouragement from the visitors God sends to your local assembly?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 553

Silas Today



What did Silas do? It seemed good to Silas to stay in Antioch.

In the early chapters of Acts, we read that Barnabas was a Levite of Cypriot birth. He had sold property and brought the proceeds to the apostles and laid the money at their feet. Barnabas played an important role in Paul's life in many different ways. The apostles called him The Son of Encouragement.

Barnabas took hold of Saul when he returned from Damascus a converted man. The apostles and others in Jerusalem were reluctant to embrace Paul because he had a history of persecuting the believers in Jerusalem. Before his conversion, he was a Pharisee of the Pharisees and a persecutor of the church. He dragged both men and women away from their houses and put them in jail. He also, as a young man, stood witness over the stoning of Stephen and people laid their robes before him.

The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas up to Antioch as news filtered back to Jerusalem that things were going very well in Antioch with the conversion of both Jews and Gentiles. Therefore, Barnabas went up there and spent considerable time strengthening the brethren at Antioch. As

Barnabas saw the things going so well at Antioch, he left and went and found Saul of Tarsus and brought him back to Antioch where they ministered together for over a year before going on their first missionary journey. In the same way, Silas slips quietly into the work at Antioch and becomes a very close worker with Paul.

Remain

1. **But**. What did Silas do after Judas and the others went back to Jerusalem? Silas stayed on with Paul and Barnabas at Antioch.
2. **Seemed**. It seemed good to him to continue his ministry there at Antioch.
3. **Good**. Silas saw good opportunities for him to stay in Antioch because the ministry there was expanding rapidly.
4. **Silas**. Silas had come from Jerusalem to deliver the Jerusalem Council's letter to the church at Antioch.
5. **To**. Having been in Antioch for a while and met the people and been a blessing to them, Silas decided to stay on in Antioch.
6. **Stay**. Living holy in the family of God means that Silas knew it was not yet time to leave Antioch and so he stayed while everybody else left and went back to Jerusalem.
7. **There**. We rejoice today because sometimes God calls us to stay while others leave and go home.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by staying for fruitful ministry while others are called to return home.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remaining sensitive to the leading of God to stay behind when other people determine it is time to go home.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by letting God use you in the place that He deems best.**

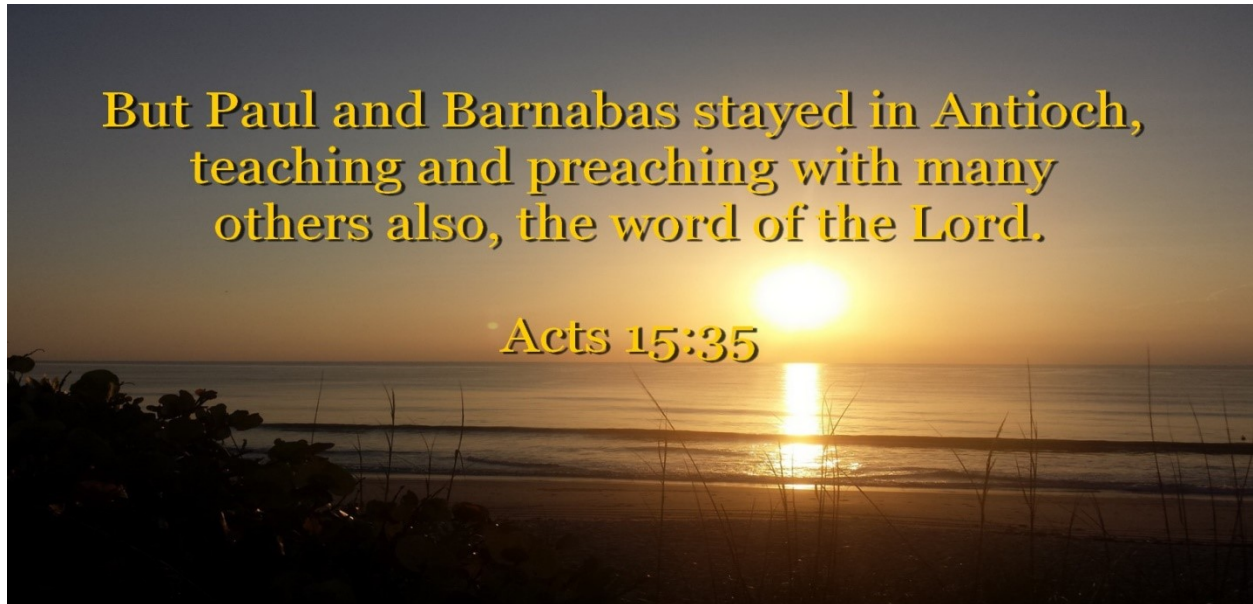
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by staying behind for further ministry after other people return back home. Will you live holy in the family of God today by trusting God to make the decision to go home or to stay longer for ministry?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 554

Stayed Today



What did Paul and Barnabas do? They stayed in Antioch, teaching and preaching with many others, the word of the Lord.

The Holy Spirit set apart Paul and Barnabas to go to the work He had called them to do in foreign lands. Their home base had become Antioch, the place where the disciples were first called Christians. Antioch was also the place where certain men from Cyprus and Cyrene began to preach the gospel to not only the Jews but also the Gentiles. Many of the Greeks at Antioch turned to the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

Paul and Barnabas had been traveling through Asia Minor and Cyprus. Not long after they returned, they went down to Jerusalem for the Jerusalem Council and came back. Paul and Barnabas formed a great ministry team and were very seasoned evangelists for God as well as missionaries. They watched God perform signs and wonders through their hands in many different places and saw Jews and Gentiles turn to Christ for salvation.

They also experience considerable persecution as they traveled. Paul had been stoned and left for dead at Lystra. They had been driven out of

various places by organized attacks upon them both by the rulers and the population. They had personally endured much persecution, and yet were eager to do the work of God.

Antioch

1. **But**. What did Paul and Barnabas do after Judas and the other men went on back to Jerusalem? Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch to continue ministry, along with Silas.

2. **Paul**. Paul and Barnabas had been on their first missionary journey to Cyprus and then over to Asia Minor.

3. **Barnabas**. They had planted churches and seen conversions in many different cities.

4. **Stayed**. Even so, they determined to stay longer in Antioch ministering the word.

5. **Antioch**. The church at Antioch had been blessed with able preachers and teachers and prophets.

6. **Teaching**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul and Barnabas stayed on in Antioch teaching and preaching with many others.

7. **Word**. We rejoice today because they all preached the word of the Lord and did so as a united ministry team.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by staying in one place long enough to teach and preach the word of God.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by knowing when it is time to resume missionary travels and when it is time to stay put in a local assembly for a longer period of time.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God for His leading that directs us about leaving at just the right time.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by enjoying the time in a local assembly with others teaching and preaching the word of the Lord. Will you live holy in the family of God today by spending time in the local assembly preaching and teaching the word of the Lord God there until the Lord directs you to return to traveling ministry?

HALLELUJAH !

14

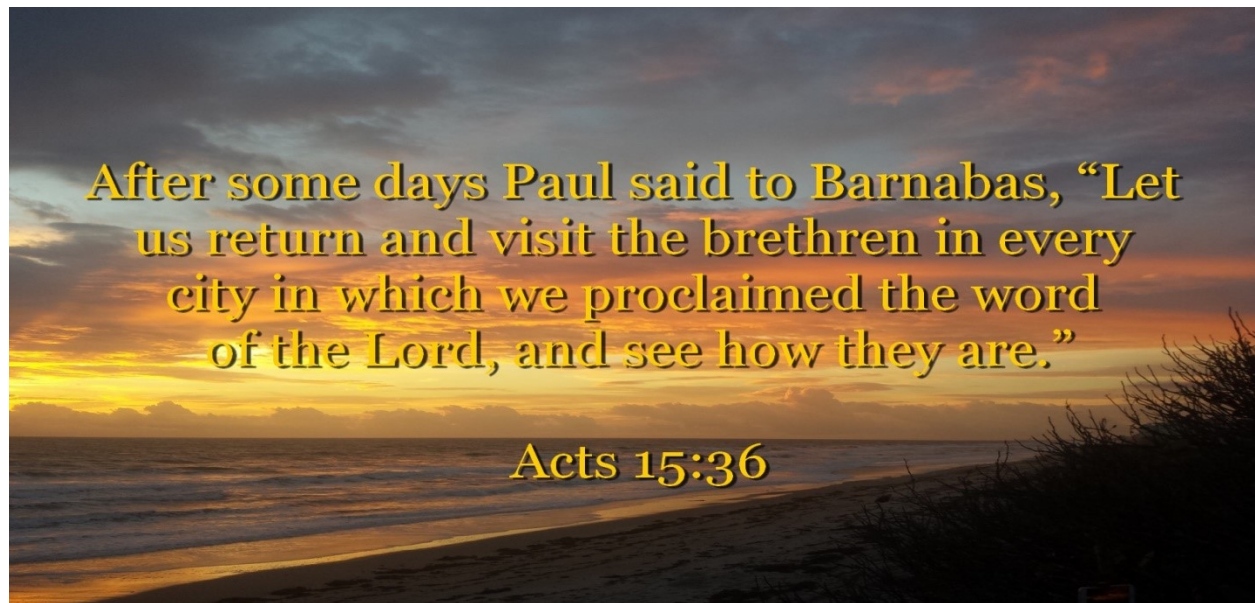
Paul and Barnabas Disagree Today

How did Paul and Barnabas split up? One day at Antioch Paul urged Barnabas to return to the brethren in every city where they had visited on their first missionary journey. Barnabas insisted upon taking John Mark who had departed from the team at Pamphylia. Paul and Barnabas had a sharp disagreement about John Mark and Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. Paul chose Silas from Jerusalem and left after the brethren in Antioch commended them to the grace of the Lord. Paul traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

HALLELUJAH !

Day 555

Return Today



What changed with Paul and Barnabas? After some days Paul said to Barnabas that they go and return and visit the brethren in every city where they had proclaimed the word of the Lord.

Paul and Barnabas had formed very special relationships with people in all of those cities they had visited previously. They had appointed elders in many cities and left disciples and their new congregations to grow together in Christ. Paul also understood that many of those places had fierce opposition to Jesus and so they persecuted the Christians there. Like fathers thinking about their children in danger, Paul and Barnabas longed to go back and see their spiritual children in all those cities.

Paul and Barnabas wanted to return and visit the brethren and to see how they were doing. The Holy Spirit was obviously moving Paul and Barnabas to continue the work they had started. Preaching the gospel and seeing conversions does not signal the end of their work, but rather just the beginning. Like newborn babes long for the pure milk of the word, so Paul and Barnabas would be nursing mothers who would take care of those young believers scattered across those cities and regions. They were able to

strengthen churches wherever they went. The process of making disciples started with evangelism and continued with personal loving care face-to-face.

Every City

1. **After**. Why did Paul and Barnabas decide to return to the cities they had visited? They wanted to see how the brothers in those cities were doing after being away.

2. **Some**. After some period of time in Antioch, ministering the word of the Lord, Paul and Barnabas felt the call of God to return to the cities they had planted churches in previously.

3. **Days**. They had spent some days in Antioch preaching and teaching the word of the Lord.

4. **Return**. Paul said to Barnabas that the time had come for them to return to the cities they visited.

5. **Visit**. Paul wanted them to return together to visit the saints in those cities.

6. **City**. Living holy in the family of God means that we do not abandon young churches and young converts we made in various cities.

7. **How**. We rejoice today because people who make disciples love to find out how the disciples are doing and want to go visit them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by working out plans with the ministry team to return to the cities where we made disciples previously.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by never forgetting about the disciples we left behind.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by joining the ministry team back together for the purpose of returning to the cities where we have ministered before.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by urging members of the ministry team to return to the cities where they planted churches. Will you live holy in the family of God today by remembering the disciples you have made and seeing how they are doing?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 556

Barnabas Today



What did Barnabas want? Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them on the return visit to the churches.

Paul and Barnabas had taken John Mark with them on their first missionary journey. Having preached on the Isle of Cyprus, the ministry team was heading towards Perga on the mainland of Asia Minor. John Mark left the ministry team and returned to Jerusalem.

Barnabas was willing to take John Mark with them on their next missionary journey. He expressed the same to Paul before they left. John Mark leaving in the middle of the first missionary journey was bound to cause problems.

Barnabas, the Son of Encouragement, loved to take hold of people and help them when they were not at their best or when they were undergoing persecution. Barnabas lifted up people in need of help. He had done the same for Paul by introducing him to the brethren at Jerusalem when nobody wanted to talk to him because they feared him as a persecutor of the church.

So, it was only natural for Barnabas to be willing to forgive John Mark for any shortcomings and take him along on the second missionary journey.

John

1. **Barnabas**. Whom did Barnabas want to take on the second missionary journey? Barnabas wanted to take along John Mark.

2. **Wanted**. Barnabas had helped Paul come to Antioch. Now, Barnabas wanted to help John Mark return to the mission field.

3. **Take**. Barnabas understood the value of taking John Mark on the second missionary journey, even though he had deserted the missionary team on the first.

4. **John**. John Mark had abandoned Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey.

5. **Along**. Barnabas always liked to take someone along with him.

6. **With**. Living holy in the family of God means that Barnabas loved to give people second chances and so wanted John Mark to come with Paul and Barnabas on the second missionary journey.

7. **Them**. We rejoice today because God loves second chances and loves to give them to people like John Mark.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by giving people second chances to overcome their previous errors.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by remembering Barnabas as the Son of Encouragement who consistently brought other people along with him in the ministry.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering the ministry teams in the New Testament and how God used them to His glory.**

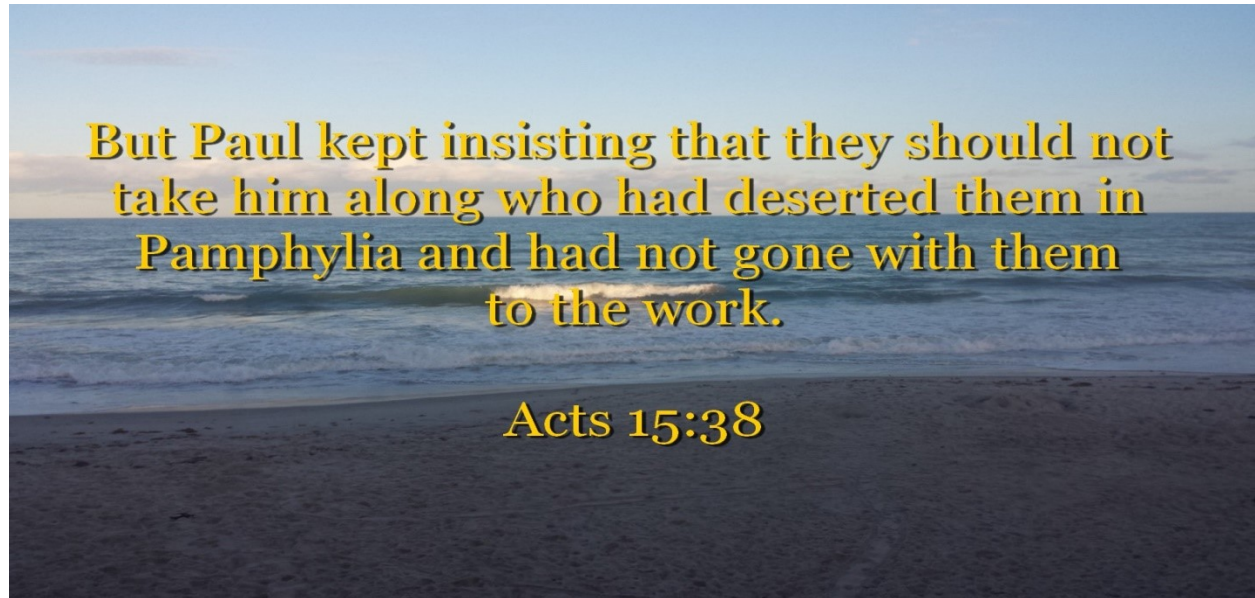
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by giving people a second chance by taking them back onto the ministry team. Will you live holy in the family of God today by giving someone a second chance in ministry?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 557

Deserted Today



How did Paul respond to Barnabas wanting to take John Mark? Paul said that John Mark had deserted them earlier and opposed him joining them for the second missionary journey.

Paul and Barnabas had very different ideas about how to treat John Mark. Paul called him a deserter while Barnabas saw an opportunity to lift him back up and get him involved in their ministry again. Paul and Barnabas worked well as a ministry team, but that does not mean they saw everything eye-to-eye.

Barnabas had The Spiritual Gift of Exhortation. As part of that gift, Barnabas took hold of people like Paul and John Mark and lifted them up. His ministry for Christ included taking hold of people that other people did not want to touch. Paul himself should have recalled that Barnabas had done the same for him at Jerusalem. Even if Paul remembered exactly what Barnabas had done for him at Jerusalem, Paul did ministry obligations differently than Barnabas.

Barnabas loved giving people like John Mark a second chance. Paul wanted men he could count on as they traveled through foreign lands and foreign places, knowing they would expect fierce persecution and they would be risking their necks doing so. Paul did not view John Mark as a man to risk his neck with. Therefore, Paul insisted that John Mark not join them.

Work

1. **But**. Why was Paul opposed to taking John Mark? Paul opposed taking John Mark with them because he had deserted them on the first trip at Pamphylia.

2. **Paul**. Paul and Barnabas risked their necks in Galatia.

3. **Insisting**. Paul kept insisting that they should not take Barnabas, because he deserted the ministry team at Pamphylia.

4. **Pamphylia**. Paul and Barnabas went to Pamphylia after they had been through Cyprus with John Mark. Pamphylia, with overland travel through mountains, posed many dangers to travelers.

5. **Not**. John Mark decided not to go any further with Paul and Barnabas and left when they reached Pamphylia.

6. **Gone**. Living holy in the family of God means that Paul did not want John Mark to travel with them because he had not gone to the work of Christ in Pamphylia and beyond.

7. **Work**. We rejoice today because the work of Christ in foreign and domestic fields often poses dangers both spiritual and physical to the missionaries.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul kept insisting that John Mark not accompany them because he did not go to the work previously.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that some members of the ministry team will always want total commitment to doing the will of God.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by thanking God that He uses divisions at times to produce more ministry teams.**

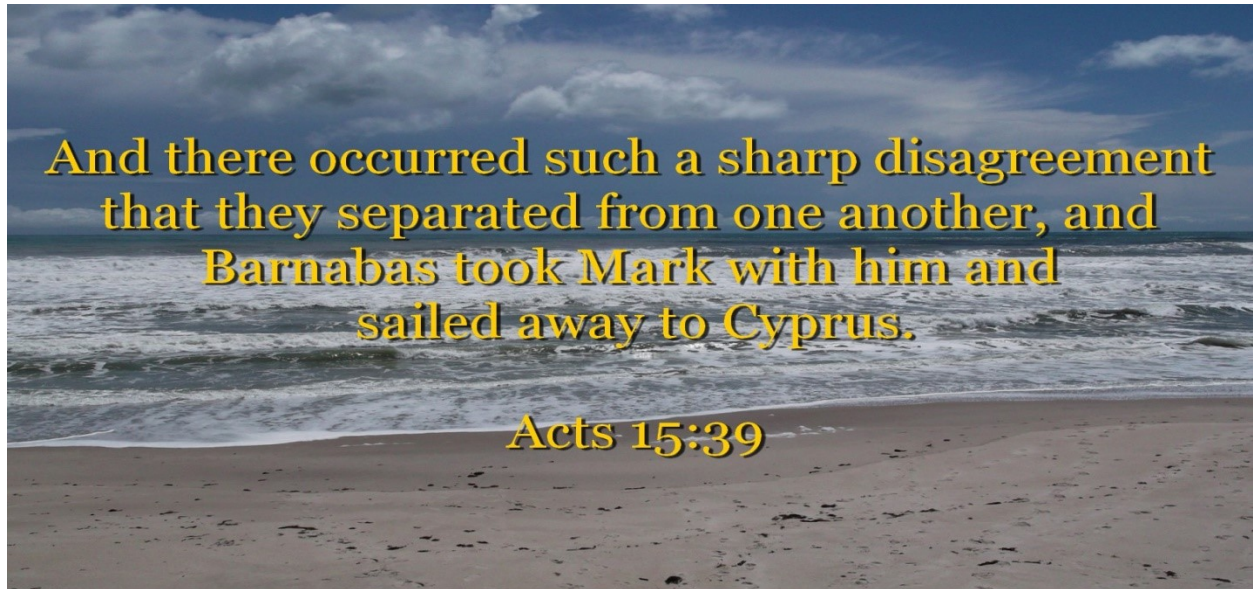
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering John Mark who deserted the ministry team at Pamphylia. Will you live holy in the family of God today by sticking with the ministry team?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 558

Disagreement Today



How sharp was the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas? The disagreement was so sharp that Paul and Barnabas separated from one another.

Because of their sharply different feelings about taking John Mark on the new missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas separated. Barnabas took John Mark and went back to Cyprus, the homeland of Barnabas. As John Mark and Barnabas sailed off to Cyprus, Paul needed a new partner for the work in Asia Minor.

The churches in Asia Minor were situated in the midst of fierce opposition. The farther Paul and Barnabas traveled, the greater the opposition became. The opposition became well-organized and reached out to both the rulers and their subjects to oppose the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The opposition at Lystra stoned Paul, dragged him out of the city and left him for dead. As the disciples stood around, Paul got up and returned to the city. He left shortly thereafter and continued preaching the gospel of the

Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, he retraced his steps through the cities that had already been persecuting him.

Separated

1. **Sharp**. How sharp was the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas? They separated from each other because of John Mark.
2. **Disagreement**. The disagreement caused them to split up and form to new ministry teams.
3. **Separated**. Their disagreement over John Mark essentially multiplied the ministry teams.
4. **Barnabas**. Barnabas formed his team and Paul formed another team.
5. **Took**. Barnabas took John Mark
6. **John**. Living holy in the family of God means that Barnabas took John Mark on his ministry team because Barnabas will always be the Son of Encouragement.
7. **Cyprus**. We rejoice today because Barnabas and John Mark returned to Cyprus, the homeland of Barnabas.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering the sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas resulted in two new ministry teams.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by understanding that not all disagreements lead to bad outcomes.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by following God when divisions cause us to stop ministering with a good friend.**

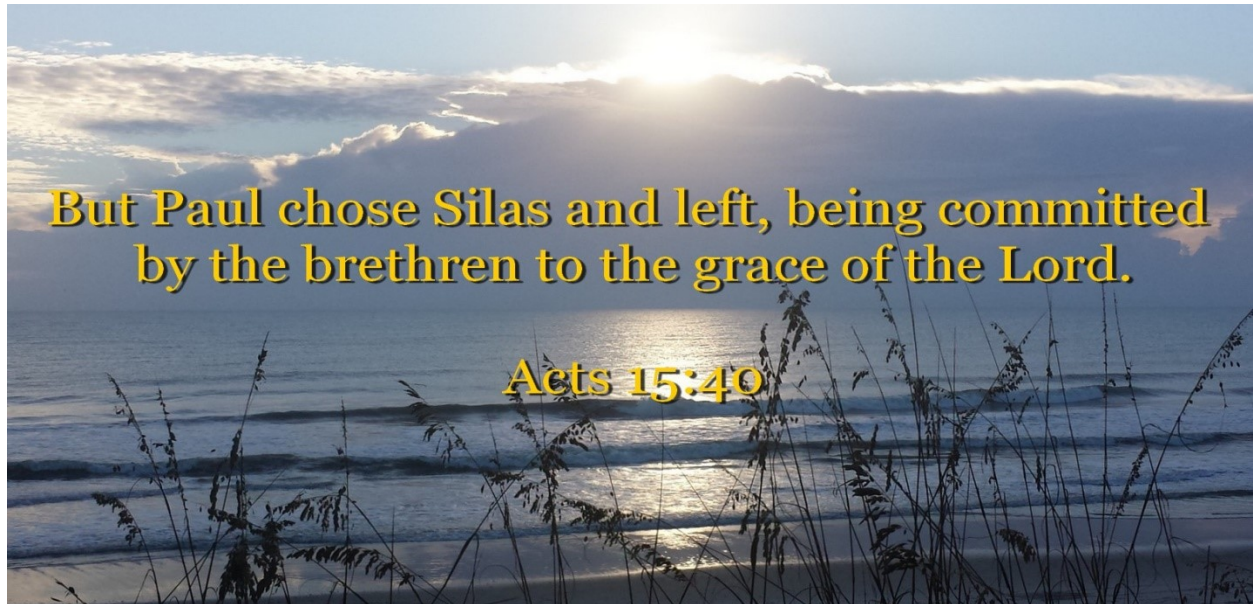
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by remembering the sharp disagreement that separated Paul and Barnabas. Will you live holy in the family of God today by understanding that some disagreements produce new ministry teams?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 559

Chose Today



What choice did Paul make after Barnabas left with John Mark? Paul chose Silas to become his partner in ministry through Asia Minor.

Paul and Barnabas had worked well together as a ministry team. They traveled through the island of Cyprus, the homeland of Barnabas. When the time came to go on a second missionary journey together, Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them. Paul considered John Mark a deserter for leaving the first missionary journey and insisted that John Mark should not go with them. Barnabas, being the Son of Encouragement, took John Mark with him to Cyprus and left Paul in Antioch. No mention was made that Barnabas and John Mark left with the blessing of the church at Antioch.

Paul chose Silas. Silas had come down from Jerusalem with Paul and Judas. The Jerusalem church had commissioned Judas and Silas to give a face-to-face account of the letter to the church in Antioch. The Jerusalem church chose Judas and Silas because they were spiritual men highly esteemed by the congregation at Jerusalem. When the other members of the group from Jerusalem returned back to Jerusalem, Silas stayed behind and spent some time in Antioch ministering as a prophet of God.

Paul appreciated the ministry of Silas and deemed him worthy to risk his neck with. Therefore, as Paul and Silas began the second missionary journey, the church at Antioch gave them their blessing as they left, committing them to the grace the Lord.

Silas

1. **But**. After Barnabas and John Mark sailed away to Cyprus, what did Paul do? Paul chose Silas and left Antioch to do the will of God.
2. **Paul**. Paul chose Silas, the prophet sent down from Jerusalem to accompany the delivery of the letter from the Jerusalem Council.
3. **Chose**. Because Paul rejected John Mark as a ministry team member, he needed a replacement to travel with.
4. **Silas**. Paul chose Silas and they departed immediately.
5. **Committed**. As they were leaving, the brethren at Antioch committed them to the Lord Jesus Christ.
6. **Brethren**. Living holy in the family of God means that the brethren in Antioch committed Paul and Silas to the grace of the Lord.
7. **Grace**. We rejoice today because Paul and Silas left Antioch with the blessing of the church upon them.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul chose Silas for the second missionary journey.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by giving a congregational blessing to the saints God calls to the work in distant lands.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by remembering that Paul and Silas formed a new ministry team because Paul was unwilling to work with John Mark.**

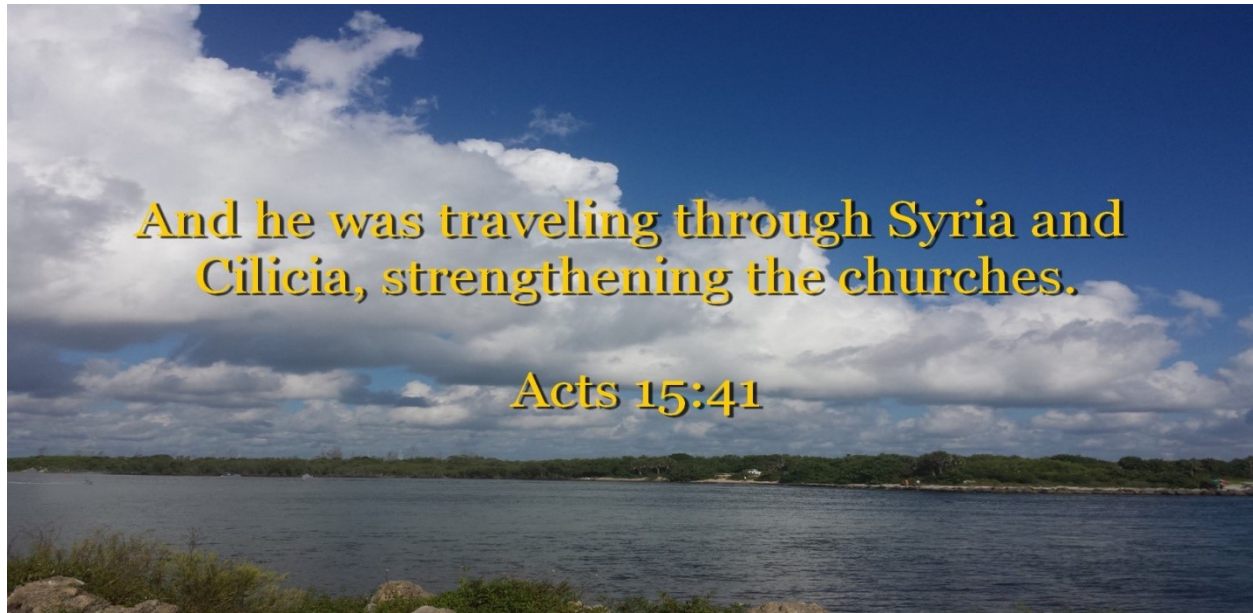
Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by understanding that the Lord Jesus Christ changes hearts and ministry teams according to His will. Will you live holy in the family of God today by joining a new ministry team to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to new lands to do other work using your spiritual gifts?

HALLELUJAH !

Day 560

Traveling Today



Where did Paul go? Paul, with Silas, went through Syria and Cilicia.

Paul traveled to Syria and Cilicia to strengthen the churches there. Paul and Barnabas had planted churches in different cities on the first missionary journey. When Paul and Silas returned to those churches, the saints would naturally ask about Barnabas and his absence.

The effect of the split between Paul and Barnabas meant that two ministry teams now began training new saints to continue the ministry of evangelizing new lands and making disciples. What started as a sharp split over John Mark produced greater results in that two ministry teams were now moving through the Mediterranean world. Please do not misunderstand. Paul and Barnabas had nothing to do with planting the church in Antioch, but a ministry team composed of men from Cyprus and Cyrene planted the church there. Other ministry teams were circulating throughout the Mediterranean world and beyond. The ministry team in view in Acts consisted of Paul and Barnabas as the original team from the church

at Antioch, and then Paul and Silas formed the second team, and Barnabas and John Mark formed the third team.

Strengthening

1. **He**. Did Paul return to the same churches on the second missionary journey? Paul went to the churches in Cilicia and Syria.
2. **Traveling**. Paul and Silas were traveling together
3. **Through**. Cilicia was a coastal province, where they had not visited earlier.
4. **Syria**. Antioch was located in Syria.
5. **Cilicia**. Tarsus, the hometown of Paul, was located in Cilicia.
6. **Strengthening**. Living holy in the family of God means that we remember that Paul and Silas strengthened the churches in Syria and Cilicia.
7. **Churches**. We rejoice today because the saints in many different places benefit from a visit.

Summary for Today

- **We live holy in the family of God by visiting other saints to strengthen them in Christ.**
- **We live more holy in the family of God by taking time to bring other saints with us as we travel to see other saints.**
- **We live together holy in the family of God by forming ministry teams and visiting other saints.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live holy in the family of God by praising God for sending saints to strengthen our faith with a visit. Will you live holy in the family of God today by joining a ministry team and visiting some saints?

HALLELUJAH !

Conclusion

As God blessed the church with growth and development in distant lands, many Gentiles came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and became part of the church of Jesus Christ. They received the Holy Spirit just like the Jewish believers.

Paul and Barnabas had gone on a missionary journey, witnessing the power of God working among both Jews and Gentiles in Cyprus and Asia Minor. They also experienced persecution and suffering for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Upon their return to Antioch, they found false teachers saying that unless Gentiles kept the customs of Moses including circumcision, they could not be saved.

Paul and Barnabas took issue with those Judaizers. The church at Antioch sent them to Jerusalem concerning the matter and the Jerusalem Council provided guidance. Paul and Barnabas, along with Judas and Silas sent by the Jerusalem church, returned to Antioch with a letter from the Jerusalem Council. Because Moses was preached in the synagogues, the Jerusalem Council advised that the converts should abstain from things offered to idols and things strangled and from blood and from fornication.

Paul and Barnabas continued in Antioch teaching the word of God. One day Paul urged Barnabas to return to the churches they had planted on their first missionary journey. Despite Paul's objections, Barnabas insisted upon taking John Mark and so departed without Paul to Cyprus. Paul took Silas and went to Syria and Cilicia, after being commended to the work by the church at Antioch.

HALLELUJAH !