**Unstoppable - wk 22 – Shake it Off**

**Acts is Jesus: The Sequel. Luke Vol 2 – The “what now?”**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” \* Supernatural growth / intense persecution, yet unstoppable.**

**15-20yrs since Jesus. Paul, Barnabas and companions – first mission trip now in Pisidian Antioch in Galatia (Turkey) – map.**

**Last week – we saw Paul preach the gospel from Genesis to Jesus.**

**The Gospel is good news because the bad news is so dreadful**

**\*\* Bad news: we are all sinners separated from the One and only HOLY Almighty God of all creation and due judgment for our sin.**

**\*\* Good News: Jesus died and rose again for the forgiveness of sins. We can now have communion with God almighty.**

**This is the only Gospel – and the only way - there is no other gospel.**

* **The Deity (Jesus is fully God the Christ in the flesh, without sin)**
* **The Death (Jesus is fully man and was crucified and buried)**
* **The Resurrection (Jesus rose from the dead – confirming it all)**
* **For the Forgiveness of sins – Reconciled to God – Our need – faith**

**1 Cor 15:1-7 – this is the gospel that saves!**

**If anything, else is preached – it is not the gospel.**

**Acts 13:38 “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. 39 Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification (a freedom) you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses. (No other way or religion).**

**They, we, you - need Jesus. The only savior and hope. Paul gave them an invitation and warning.**

**Last week we talked about sharing the good news with others.**

**But what do we do if people reject it? Those you love?**

**The RESPONSES (How people respond to the Gospel) Some will…**

**Acts 13:42 As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. (Come back next week!) 43 When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God. (Lots of questions and long talks resulting in some believing and becoming followers of Jesus)**

**(A week later a packed house) 44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. (The power of the Word of God – not the words of man - but the word of the Lord coming from Paul and Barnabas)**

**\*\* Some will be curious and listen**

**The place was full of interested people – packed. They want to hear more.**

**But attendance is not a sign of truth salvations and disciples.**

**Filled false churches and, cults, and religions.**

**Don’t confuse the seats fillers with the true followers.**

**Even today in this room – the curious are not secure.**

**Acts 13:45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.**

**Jealous of attention rather than the good news of sins forgiven**

**\*\* Some will be suspicious of your motives and influence**

**I’ve been called a fake, a charlatan, shams, swindlers, fraud, oppressor, judgmental, hungry for power, etc.**

**I just want to reach people for Jesus.**

**46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. (Has Jesus had done – explain why) Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.**

**\*\* Some will straight reject it – and you**

**They will hear it, understand it, realize a need for it and still say no.**

**But Paul told them - Reject Jesus and you reject eternal life.**

**“Well, that doesn’t seem nice…”**

**Echoes Jesus - John 3:17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.**

**John 12:48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.**

**Matthew 10:33 But whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.**

**Luke 10:16 “The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”**

**Echoes John Baptist - John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.**

**Echoes John - 1 John 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.**

**Well, that does not seem fair – what about all the other people?**

**God in His grace and mercy – gave Jesus as the only way.**

**We are to tell this good news to the world about it!**

**Some will just reject the message, and some will reject you with it.**

**Jesus said they are not rejecting you they are rejecting God.**

**John 15:18 “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. / 20 … If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also… 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me.**

**Matthew 10:22 - You will be hated by everyone because of My name, but the one who perseveres to the end will be saved.**

**Which is why the message of Paul to believers was often – “continue in the grace of the Lord” “Don’t give up!”**

**It was rejected by the jews… Acts 13:46b …we now turn to the Gentiles.47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: (Isaiah 49:6) “‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”**

**When the gospel is rejected don’t stop talking, tell someone else**

**Don’t argue with a hard heart it is not our responsibility to save them, it’s our responsibility to tell them. Salvation is on the Lord.**

**There will always be those who contradict and try to persuade people from Christ. Just move to the next person who will listen. The harvest is ripe and ready - there is a harvest out there.**

**Acts 13:48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. (Acts 2:39)**

**\*\* Some will gladly believe it!**

**Same message – Look what a clear contrast: The Jewish people were angry and jealous. The gentiles were glad and humbled.**

**Responding to the word of Lord by the HS - they believed.**

**The HS intervenes and turns a hard heart into a soft heart.**

**The HS turns a faithless heart into a faith filled heart.**

**The HS turns a dead spirit into a living Spirit.**

**The HS turns an orphan into a child of God.**

**Who does God save?**

**Notice it says - “all who were appointed for eternal life believed.”**

**Those appointed to eternal life – elect, chosen of God, called**

**By the HS some will believe - Ephesians 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will - 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8a that he lavished on us. (Romans 8:30-31, John 6:35-59)**

**If everyone is not appointed to eternal life, who is appointed? How do we know who they are? – We don’t know, it’s not ours to pick and choose it’s the LORD – sometimes it’s the least likely.**

**Some believed - look what happens...**

**Acts 13:49 The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.**

**Those who truly believe it – will tell others about it.**

**This was through Paul and Barny and those who believed.**

**When you are told good news you can’t keep it to yourself! Pregnant, winning, new job, love! We are here because one day the Word spread to Garland, TX.**

**Notice the emphasis on the Word of God (the gospel of Jesus)**

**- The city came together to hear the word of God (Acts 13:44)**

**- Paul and Barnabas spoke the word of God (Acts 13:46)**

**- The Gentiles heard and honored the word of the Lord (Acts 13:48)**

**- The word of the Lord spread through the region (Acts 13:49)**

**We gather to share, teach, preach, sing, & grow in the Word of God**

**We are called, commissioned, commanded, and given the privilege spread the Word of God! To know the Word is to know Jesus.**

**Our message is not politics, opinion, and popular issues. Our message is not revival and signs and wonders - not “touchy feely’s” and experiences – it’s not even just love… our message is but to share the Word of God.**

**That is the only thing that can transform a life. (Rom 1:16 – I am not shamed…) Not a good book, sermon, illustration, song, prayer, service**

**You’ll never meet a mature, fruitful, strong, spiritually discerning Christian who is not full of Scripture and pursuing to live it out.**

**This Pisidian Antioch church was planted in less than a week and lasted over 1000 years. But not everyone was okay with it…**

**Acts 13:50 But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their region. (Influence so strong they got them kicked out of the city)**

**\*\* Some will intentionally try to stop you**

**Christian persecution – cut out of families and friendships – followed by negative words and actions.**

**People have been trying for 2000 years – but it’s unstoppable!**

**(Last part - what did P&B and company do?) Acts 13:51 So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples (P&B and companions) were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.**

**The REJECTIONS - What do we do…**

**1. When gospel is rejected (and it will be) shake it off**

**Don’t take it personal. Rejection is part of telling people.**

**Shack the dust off as Jesus instructed (Matt 10, Luke 9, Mark 6) Even the dust rejected the truth - leave it behind. Walk away with a clear conscience and in grace. Move on.**

**Jesus tells how to deal with his:**

**Kick ‘em to the curb – curse them out – burn the house down!**

**\*\* Love - Matt 5:44 - love your enemies…**

**\*\* Pray - Matt 5:44 - pray for those who persecute you…**

**\*\* Bless – Luke 6:28 - bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.**

**Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you. Bless and do not curse.**

**1 Corinthians 4:12 - We work hard with our own hands. When we are vilified, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it…**

**1 Pet 3:9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.**

**We are not to cut people off and burn bridges. We are not to ostracize, criticize, exclude, ignore, remove, shun, or banish.**

**This is what sets followers of Jesus apart – our attitude reaction and response to rejection – we keep loving!**

**\*\* To shake it off does not mean you are indifferent, heartless, or emotionally removed. My heart broke for my brother for 20+ years in tears – praying for his salvation.**

**Paul shook the dust off but also says this about his Jewish brothers and sisters Romans 9:3 For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race,** **the people of Israel.**

**He mourned the souls of his Jewish family; he never neglected their need. We too shake the dust off – but be humbled by your salvation and mourn, pray, bless, and love - those who refuse it.**

**2. When you are rejected (and you will be) choose joy**

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

**They just got chased out of town – and they have… JOY. How?**

**“Filled with joy and the Holy Spirit” - they go together - HS brings joy**

**You can have joy regardless of the circumstance or attack!**

**The joy of a follower of Jesus, is not dependent on what happens – but on Who happens to hold their life. The LORD God.**

**They can take your family - take your job - take your freedom - take your friends - take your processions - but they can’t take your JOY! You know why? Because the HS remains in you.**

**Little do P&B know the worst was yet to come – getting run out of town is kids play to what is to come… but even after they still hold tight to the Joy of God through the HS.**

**Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

**Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.**

**James 1: Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.**

**Walk in the Spirit and you will have JOY**

**Walk in the flesh and you will get angry, frustrated, retaliate, vindictive. It’s hard to hate someone you’re praying for.**

**Will you reject or receive the Good News today?**

**Will you by faith continue and keep telling others about Jesus?**

**LT study - Matthew 5:43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. (In this life and world - God allows good to happen to unrighteous people too – common grace) 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.**