

Road Trip (3)

Up the Mountain to Antioch – Preaching in New Territory

Acts 20:24 – “But none of these things move me...”

(Acts 13:13–52)

Introduction: Years ago, a missionary couple serving in the Andes Mountains of Peru were asked, “Why are you going so far out of your way to preach in that remote village?” The missionary replied, “Because the gospel climbs mountains—it’s good news in every place.”

That’s what we see in Acts 13. Paul and Barnabas go up into the mountains of Pisidia to share the gospel in new territory. They climbed, because the gospel climbs with us. The message of Jesus is good news in every place—old or new.

I. Gospel faithfulness in new territory (Acts 13:13–16)

A. John Mark leaves the mission team (Acts 13:13). Ministry is not always easy.

B. Paul and Barnabas continue into the mountains of Pisidia.

Adrian Rogers: “Anytime you’re going to carry the gospel to higher ground, you’d better expect uphill travel.”

1. They begin in the synagogue and are invited to speak (Acts 13:15–16).

Chuck Swindoll: “Paul didn’t come with a sword, but with a story—God’s redemptive story through Israel, fulfilled in Christ.”

2. Ecclesiastes 11:4 reminds us – Don’t wait for perfect conditions. Share the gospel where you are.

“Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.”

II. Gospel clarity in the synagogue (Acts 13:17–41)

Paul’s sermon...

A. God’s Grace in the Past (vv. 17–25): Israel’s story pointed to Jesus.

B. Jesus Crucified and Raised (vv. 26–31): “But God raised Him from the dead” (v. 30).

C. Fulfillment of Prophecy (vv. 32–37): Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 55:3; Psalm 16:10.

D. Justification Through Faith (vv. 38–39): “Everyone who believes is justified...”

Warren Wiersbe: “The gospel is not good advice—it’s good news. And news must be declared, not debated.”

Romans 1:16 – “I am not ashamed of the gospel...”

Max Lucado: “The gospel is not a treasure to be buried, but a gift to be shared.”

III. Gospel rejection and gospel expansion (Acts 13:42–52)

A. Many respond positively at first (vv. 42–43).

B. Opposition arises from jealous leaders (vv. 44–45).

- Paul and Barnabas respond boldly (v. 46).

John MacArthur: “Paul was never discouraged by rejection—he used it as fuel to go farther.”

C. Gentiles rejoice (v. 48); “as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.”

- The gospel spreads (v. 49), despite persecution (vv. 50–51).

John Phillips: “The gospel may be resisted, but it can never be stopped.”

Galatians 6:9 – “Let us not grow weary in doing good...”

“If you throw a rock into a pack of dogs, the one that yelps is the one that got hit.”

Conclusion and next step: Paul and Barnabas climbed into new territory and God moved powerfully. The gospel still speaks in skeptical or unreached places.

John Piper: “Missions exists because worship doesn’t.”

Next Step: Share the gospel with someone outside your normal circle. Pray for boldness and clarity to proclaim Christ wherever He sends you.