

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Sermon Series: Empowered
Title: Don't Give Up; Faithfully Carry the Message
Speaker: Jeremia Radvanszky
Text: Acts 13-14
Date: February 11, 2018



WARM-UP

Let's pretend: Your boss tells you that s/he wants you to pull up stakes and move to Yellowknife, NWT. S/he waxes about what incredible opportunities there are for you and your family. What would you be thinking? What conversations would happen within the family?

- Dave and Doris Beck – Power to Change – Langley
- Al and Donna Goerz – SIM - Ghana
- Doug and Lynn Harder – Send – Thailand
- Carl and Caroline High – Context – Pennsylvania
- Norm and Lori Nickel – MB Mission
- Norbert and Karin Rennert – Wycliffe – Langley
- Rick and Karen Sanchez – MB Mission – Thailand
- Chris and Jane Sperling – Equip – Uganda
- David and Siegelinde Wiebe – Multi-Nation Foundation – Paraguay
- Rob and Cy Wiebe – YWAM Hawaii

In our minds, these folks are the real missionaries! Right? Which of those people do you admire the most? Why?

DISCUSSION

REVIEW

- **Acts 13: 1-3:**
 - The Commissioning of Saul and Barnabas "set apart" for the work given them by the church leadership and the Holy Spirit
- **Acts 13:4-12** – The Cyprus adventure
 - Saul calls out the sorcerer, Elymas (Bar-Jesus) and blinds him
 - Proconsul Sergius Paulus becomes a believer
 - Saul becomes Paul – v. 9
- **Acts 13:13-52** – Psidian Antioch – "The word of the Lord spread throughout the whole region" (v. 49)
 - Paul preaches three times on the Sabbath (vv. 14, 42, 44) in the synagogues to Jews and Gentiles – vv. 16-41
 - * V. 38 – "I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you."
 - * V. 43 "Many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas...who urged them to continue in the grace of God."
 - Persecution rises up against Paul and Barnabas vv. 45, 50, 51 – expelled from the city but "the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."
- **Acts 14 - The Three-City Tour in Asia Minor:**
 - **Acts 14:1-6: Iconium**
 - * Paul and Barnabas preached persuasively in the synagogue - tremendous response
 - * Jewish and Gentile leaders oppose them and stone them
 - * Paul and Barnabas flee
 - **Acts 14:8-19 – Lystra**
 - * Paul and Barnabas hailed as 'gods' by the people (11,12) because a cripple was healed by the

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- ministry of Paul (v.9,10)
 - * Paul stoned again (vv.19, 20)
- **Acts 14:21: Derbe**
 - * A large number of disciples were won to the Lord.
- **Acts 14: 21-25 - The Encouragement Tour:** circling back
 - V. 21-25 – Lystra, Iconium, Psidian Antioch
 - * Strengthening and encouraging – expect many hardships in order to “enter the Kingdom of God.”
- **Acts 14: 26-27 – The Missionary Report**
 - V. 26 – Paul and Barnabas task completed – “committed to the grace of God”
 - V. 27 – Report to the commissioning church – an open door to the Gentiles.

Application:

How do we translate the message and the means from Paul and Barnabas' mission to Asia Minor to today's contemporary setting?

Scriptural Principles:

“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.” Romans 1:16

- *What are some of the factors that may cause a believer to be ashamed of the Gospel?*

A Universal Language:

“Coupled with proactive deeds of compassion, there is an understanding that there is a message to be communicated, not just a compassion agency, but people who live the gospel and proclaim the gospel.”

- *Which do you find easier? To do deeds of compassion or to say the words of the Gospel to someone who is a ‘not-yet-believer?’ Why is that?*

A Sense of Commission: Romans 10:13-15

- *How do we decide who should go and who should stay? How did the Antioch church do it? Is that an example for the church today?*
- *Would you ever encourage your own child to become a “full-time” missionary in “X” country? Why or why not?*

Jeremia's Principles: Open Doors

- Don't ever give up when God gives you a job/opportunity
- You are called to faithfully carry the message of Jesus
- The message of Jesus is for EVERYONE
- We have the support of our entire church body
- Because of the message, you will have beautiful feet!

Prayer Time:

- *Ask Jesus for the name(s) of someone that you need to boldly share with your actions and your words the message of Jesus with.*
- *Then ask for a sensitivity towards the Holy Spirit in this area*
- *And last, ask for an empowerment from the Holy Spirit to reach others!*