

Sent With Power
Acts 13:1-12

Grey poupon ice cream...depravity

I. Intro

- A. If you have ever gone without power, you remember it.
- B. Ice storms, or other natural disasters can cause us to lose electricity and be slightly inconvenienced, and we are marked for a time.
- C. Think about how much more awful would be the loss of HOLY SPIRIT POWER**

II. Text

A. Verses 13:1-3

- 1. What were they doing: preparation for something they didn't know was going to happen.
- 2. How did they prepare: Worship and fasting
- 3. God then spoke, they acted

B. Verses 13:4-9

- 1. They went, as commanded by the Holy Spirit
- 2. They did what they knew they needed to do
- 3. They encountered opposition, but not equal opposition.
- 4. Don't give the work of the enemy too much credit, He has no power!

C. Verses 13:10-11

- 1. Will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord**
- 2. The ability to lead people does not equate to Godly leadership.**
- 3. The path of the Lord is straight, and simple
 - a) Don't complicate it
 - b) Don't make it difficult

D. Verse 13:12

- 1. The proconsul believed
- 2. They were astonished at the teaching of the LORD

III. Point

A. The Holy Spirit Calls and Sends

- 1. Verse 2-3: Set apart Saul and Barnabas, Send them off
- 2. The calling is clear, and it brings action**
- 3. Action needs to be immediate:**
 - a) Think of when your mom would call you...and use your entire name...immediate attention
 - b) You've been waiting at the DMV for hours, and your number is called... immediate response
 - c) You are hungry and at a restaurant, party of 8, your name is called...immediate response
- 4. Most of us try to respond to God differently, and in so doing, abuse His grace
- 5. Don't miss this: the church sent these people**
 - a) They took it as a responsibility**
 - b) They knew it to be as much a part of the calling as the going**
 - c) It's a symbiotic relationship!**

B. The Holy Spirit Empowers the Message and the Messenger

- 1. Verse 9: Paul is filled with BOLDNESS
- 2. The message is clear and directed to the heart of the problem**
- 3. They proclaimed the WORD OF GOD**
 - a) Not the cleverness of man**
 - b) Not the philosophy of man**

- c) **Not the wisdom of man**
- d) **They didn't try to explain away the things that were hard to understand**
- e) **They didn't make up rules of righteousness**
- 4. **The Word of God was enough, nothing needs to be added to it**
- 5. The boldness of Paul is also clearly seen as the Holy Spirit empowered Him!
 - a) When you have the boldness of the Holy Spirit, you have the boldness of a 5 years old in a super man cape
 - b) Paul goes right at the false teacher
- 6. Paul's charge: making crooked the straight paths...
 - a) Don't make the gospel something it is not
 - b) Don't teach falsehoods and call them truth
 - c) Don't SPIN the gospel, because it is then no longer the gospel.
- 7. **This message has the same power in YOU, His messenger.**

C. The Holy Spirit Convicts and Challenges

- 1. **I cannot bring conviction that is lasting and life changing, only the Holy Spirit!**
- 2. **The proconsul believed, astonished at the teaching of the Lord**
- 3. This message brings hope and change
- 4. **What was the root of the message being received?**
 - a) **The sign was helpful, but not the point**
 - b) **The message that brought astonishment was the TEACHING OF THE LORD**
- 5. **Teachers:**
 - a) **Make this your goal and plan**
 - b) **Make this the emphasis and the content**
 - c) **Use stories and illustrations that get the point across, but don't become the point.**
 - d) **Don't forget the importance of this! God's word changes lives!**
- 6. **Let us be known as teachers of the word of the Lord!**

IV. Close