

July 4, 2021

Happy Independence Day!

La Jolla Christian Fellowship

Paul's First Journey // Episode 4: Open Doors

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ACTS 13:42-48

⁴²As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³When 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. ⁴⁴On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him. ⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has commanded us: "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." ⁴⁸When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

1. **Vs. 42** As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath.
 - **It's About Open Doors—**
 - **Revelation 3:8** I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.
 - **1 Corinthians 16:7b-8** I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. ⁸ But I will stay on at Ephesus until Pentecost, ⁹because a great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me.
 - **2 Corinthians 2:12** Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,
2. **Vs. 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. ⁴⁴On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
 - **Open doors are meant to lead somewhere:** many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas.
 - **From a synagog to a city— Vs. 44** On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.
3. **Boldness— Vs. 46** Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, **we now turn to the Gentiles.**
 - We had to speak the word of God to you first
 - We now turn to the Gentiles.

4. **Vs. 47** For this is what the Lord has commanded us: “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”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.

- **Commanded:** For this is what the Lord has commanded us:
- **A light for salvation:** “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”

Small Group Questions:

1. How do we determine if God is opening a door?
2. Where has God opened a door for you in the past or recently?
3. Are you bold in being a light for salvation to others? How do we find a balance between boldness and being obnoxious?
4. Have you ever considered that evangelism is a command? How differently would you treat evangelism if you knew God was commanding you rather than merely suggesting?

5. Paul and Barnabas turned to the Gentiles. Who has God called you to?