

**“Speaking Boldly for the Lord”**

*Sermon Notes*

- **In your mission to make disciples, expect some neighbors to become family while others become enemies**

*\* In the face of such division...*

1. Sometimes you stay to bless family and befriend enemies (2-3)

2. Sometimes you leave to relocate the mission (5-6)

**Next Week: Various Texts “To This We Are Witnesses”: Resurrection Sunday  
Preaching the Resurrection in Acts**

## Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of March 25th -31st

### Context

1. Read Acts 13:1-3. This is Paul and Barnabas first missionary journey. How did it begin? Where have they gone so far?
2. Before coming to Iconium, what had just happened in Pisidian Antioch (see Acts 13:48-52). How might this have impacted them on their walking travels to Iconium?
3. Paul and Barnabas are traveling around modern day Turkey, ancient Asia Minor. What do you know about the land, people and nation of Turkey?

### Observation

1. Some Jews are referred to as the “unbelieving” Jews. The Greek word here has the idea of disobedience at it’s root. How can one be disobedient to truth, to a message? Consider the following passages:

*John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

*Rom 2:8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.*

*Acts 19:8-9 And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. 9 But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him...*

*Rom 10:21 But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”*

*1 Peter 2:7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” 8 and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

2. How did the Jews impact the Gentiles? What about this partnership is strange? Why might they have plotted to do such harm?

3. What did Paul and Barnabas continually do throughout their time in Iconium (and the surrounding region)? How could they speak so boldly (see also Acts 4:23-31)?
4. What is stoning? Why would Jews stone people (e.g. Lev 20, 24; Exod 21; Numb 15:35-36; Dt 13:11; 17:5; 21:21; 22:21,24)?

### **Meaning**

1. What do you learn about the triune God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) in this passage?
2. How did the Lord relate to his messengers? Why is the “message of his grace” so important? What have we learned about signs and wonders through Acts so far? What impact might they have had on the citizens of Iconium?
3. What was the dividing line? Was it the messengers? Was it the message?

### **Application**

1. In our mission to make disciples, what outcome do you expect? To what degree do you expect strangers to become neighbors, neighbors to become friends, and friends to become family? How do your experiences match your expectation?
2. What makes it hard to stay in divisive environments? What makes it hard to leave?
3. Think of your circle of family, friends, relatives, neighbors, and coworkers. Who is “church family”? Who is an “enemy”? How so? Which relationships do you want to stay invested in, versus withdraw from?