

Strategy, Tactics & Your Unseen Adversary

Deployment Begins

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **May 07, 2023**



Many of us have been in church for an enormous section so our lives, but we really haven't been trained in spiritual things. We've been trained to be born again and maybe read our Bibles. But when it comes to spiritual things, spiritual outcomes, and spiritual forces that shape our lives, our training is minimal. Then, if we are caught in a place with an assertive adversary, we're toast—and that's not adequate. *So, we're going to spend a few sessions doing a little bit of training ...*

I. THE NATURE OF THE ADVERSARY

Kingdoms in Conflict

John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

John 16:33 *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

Provocative Truth

Mark 3:1–6 1 Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. 2 Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone."

4 Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. 5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

1. **Where have you seen God's objective truth mocked in today's culture?**
2. **What does it look like for you to be an advocate for God's Truth in your daily routine?**
3. **Where have you let people and circumstances have more impact on your view of truth than God's Word and the Holy Spirit?**

II. JESUS' FRIENDS IN ACTION (ACTS)

A. Pisidian Antioch

Acts 13:14–16, 42 ¹⁴From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak." ¹⁶Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! . . . ⁴²As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath.

Summary of Paul's Message

- ❖ There is a God & He is involved in our lives.
- ❖ God brings outcomes for our good, which we cannot achieve alone.
- ❖ We are rebellious.
- ❖ Jesus makes the difference; God gave us a Savior!
- ❖ Typically, He is not recognized & frequently He is condemned.
- ❖ God raises Jesus up.
- ❖ Fact: Jesus will be exalted over all.
- ❖ Through Jesus ...
 - Your sins can be forgiven, and you can have peace with God.
 - You can be justified.
- ❖ Be careful, do not join the scoffers.

Acts 13:44–45 ⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying.

Acts 13:46–50 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. 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. ⁴⁹ The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

⁵⁰ **But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.**

B. Iconium

Acts 14:1–7 ¹ At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.

² But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴ The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. ⁵ There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. ⁶ But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, ⁷ where they continued to preach the good news.

C. Lystra

Acts 14:8–11 ⁸ In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰ and called out, “Stand up on your feet!” At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. ¹¹ When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!”

Acts 14:14–20 ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵ “Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. ...” ¹⁸ Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

¹⁹ Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰ But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

- 4. When was a time that identifying as a believer left you feeling alone or isolated? How did you overcome those feelings?**
- 5. How much urgency do you feel to tell those in your sphere of influence about the good news of the gospel and Jesus Christ?**
- 6. How can you be more intentional this week in sharing about Jesus with your family, friends, and coworkers?**

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You have delivered us from the kingdom of darkness and welcomed us into the Kingdom of Your Son. Now, may our hearts be open to Your invitation. Grant us the boldness to share the truth You have brought to life within us. May Jesus be exalted, may people find freedom and hope, and may those trapped in despair be set free. Deliver us from evil. May all the honor be directed to Jesus. Amen!