

JESUS AT THE CORE

LOVING THEIR NEW LIFE

JOY FILLED COMMUNITIES

EVERY OPPORTUNITY

SUMMER  
2023

SUNDAYS  
9am & 10:30am  
9am LIVE

# UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.

1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, 2 until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appealing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but

to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." The Ascension 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee,

MAP OF THE WORLD





# THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

ACTS 13-14

## UNSTOPPABLE

WHAT WE LEARN FROM THE CHURCH IN ACTS.



## Acts 13:1-52

<sup>1</sup> Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup> While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup> Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. <sup>4</sup> So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup> When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews.

## Acts 13:1-52

And they had John to assist them. <sup>6</sup> When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. <sup>7</sup> He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup> But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. <sup>9</sup> But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him <sup>10</sup> and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 13:1-52

you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?

<sup>11</sup> And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down...

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# Paul's Sermon in Antioch

The Audience: “Men of Israel and you who fear God...” (13:16)

The Background: (13:17-37)

- God chose the Jews
- Gave them land, Judges, and a great king in David
- Gave them a promise of a Savior from among his offspring
- That Savior is Jesus, killed by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem
- Raised from the dead by God, and we are witnesses



# Paul's Sermon in Antioch

The Promise:

“Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by Him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses” (13:38-39)

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# Paul's Sermon in Antioch

The Warning:

“Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about: ‘Look, you scoffers, be astonished and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you.’ (13:40-41)



## Acts 13:1-52

<sup>44</sup> The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. <sup>45</sup> But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. <sup>46</sup> And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.””

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 13:1-52

<sup>48</sup> And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. <sup>49</sup> And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. <sup>50</sup> But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.



## Acts 14:1-28

<sup>1</sup> Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. <sup>2</sup> But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. <sup>3</sup> So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. <sup>4</sup> But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. <sup>5</sup> When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers to mistreat them and to stone them,

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 14:1-28

<sup>6</sup> they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, <sup>7</sup> and there they continued to preach the gospel. <sup>8</sup> Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup> He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, <sup>10</sup> said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking. <sup>11</sup> And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”

**UNSTOPPABLE**



## Acts 14:1-28

<sup>12</sup> Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup> And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. <sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, <sup>15</sup> “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

## Acts 14:1-28

<sup>16</sup> In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. <sup>17</sup> Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” <sup>18</sup> Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them. <sup>19</sup> But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. <sup>20</sup> But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

**UNSTOPPABLE**



## Acts 14:1-28

<sup>21</sup> When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. <sup>23</sup> And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. <sup>24</sup> Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. <sup>25</sup> And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, <sup>26</sup> and from there they sailed to Antioch,

**UNSTOPPABLE**

## Acts 14:1-28

where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. <sup>27</sup> And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. <sup>28</sup> And they remained no little time with the disciples.





UNSTOPPABLE

WORLD

# The People

- Primary cast
  - Saul – Paul (Former Pharisee)
  - Joseph – Barnabas (Brad Pitt)
- Supporting cast
  - Simeon – Niger (Latin for Dark Complexion/Black)
  - Lucius of Cyrene (North Africa)
  - Manaen (from Herod's court)
  - John (Mark – who leaves the cast at Perga)



# The People

- Supporting cast on Cyprus
  - Bar-Jesus – Elymas (a ‘magician’)
  - Sergius Paulus (Proconsul, Governor)
- Supporting cast in Antioch in Pisidia
  - The Jews of the synagogue
  - The rulers of the synagogue
  - The Gentiles - God-fearers and devout converts
  - Devout women of high standing and leading men of the city

# The People

- Supporting cast in Iconium
  - The Jews in the synagogue
  - The Gentile 'God-fearers' in the synagogue
  - The divided crowds and the rulers of Iconium
- Supporting cast in Lystra
  - Crippled/healed man
  - Crowds of amazed Gentiles
  - The priest of Zeus
  - The Jews who had followed from Antioch and Iconium



# The People

- The Church in Antioch
- Paul, Barnabas, and the others
- Us

# Cities, Regions, and Roman Provinces





UNSTOPPABLE

**Where is God sending Us?**

**UNSTOPPABLE**



# The Message

- In the Synagogue:
  - The story of the Jewish people
  - It's culmination in Jesus
  - The proof from the Scriptures
  - The promise of forgiveness and freedom
  - The warning not to shun such great news (as the Prophets predicted some would)

# The Message

- To the Gentiles:
  - We bring good news to turn you from futility
  - There is one God, and He is alive
  - He made the earth and sky, and everything that is
  - He has left you a witness to His goodness in the earth and rain and plentiful harvests
  - The culmination of His goodness is in Jesus!
  - Salvation is now offered to you directly!



# Our Message

- To our people (non-practicing Jews and non-Jews):

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# Our Message

- To our people:
  - We bring good news - to give life meaning, purpose, significance, hope, and joy
  - There is a God - and He is alive
  - He changed me and is still changing me
  - It all revolves around Jesus
  - He is available to you directly!

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# The Reactions

- In every place – different, varied, God is in charge



## Acts 13:1-52

<sup>48</sup> And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and **as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.** <sup>49</sup> And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. <sup>50</sup> But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

# Process Oriented vs. Results Oriented

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# The Reactions

- In every place – different, varied, God is in charge
- **There will be opposition**



## Acts 13:1-52

<sup>48</sup> And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. <sup>49</sup> And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. <sup>50</sup> **But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.**

## Acts 14:1-28

<sup>1</sup> Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. <sup>2</sup> But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. <sup>3</sup> So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. <sup>4</sup> **But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.** <sup>5</sup> **When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers to mistreat them and to stone them, they learned of it and they fled to Lystra and Derbe...**

## Acts 14:1-28

<sup>16</sup> In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. <sup>17</sup> Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.” <sup>18</sup> Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them. <sup>19</sup> **But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city,** supposing that he was dead. <sup>20</sup> But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

UNSTOPPABLE



# The Reactions

- In every place – different, varied, God is in charge
- There will be opposition

# The Reactions

- In every place – different, varied, God is in charge
- There will be opposition
- **There will be disappointments and departures**

## Acts 13:1-52

you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?

<sup>11</sup> And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord. <sup>13</sup> **Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,** <sup>14</sup> but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down...

**UNSTOPPABLE**



# The Reactions

- In every place – different, varied, God is in charge
- There will be opposition
- There will be disappointments and departures
- **Thank God for all He accomplished, Celebrate it!**

## Acts 14:1-28

where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. <sup>27</sup> And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. <sup>28</sup> And they remained no little time with the disciples.

# The Reactions

- In every place – different, varied, God is in charge
- There will be opposition
- There will be disappointments and departures
- Thank God for all He accomplished, Celebrate it!
- **Pray and watch for new opportunities**



# First of its kind?

- Acts 2:9 – People from Phrygia and Pamphylia at Pentecost
- But something changes with Peter’s vision
- Acts 11:18 – “...to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”
- Acts 11:19-21 – After the stoning of Stephen, Christians flee to Cyprus and Antioch (in Syria), preaching only to Jews – with a few exceptions

# First of its kind?

- Now – all that has changed!
- When Peter heard Jesus say – “You will be my witnesses...”
- Now – it is the Good News of great joy for all people!
- From here – the Gospel going to everyone, and they can respond directly!
- Not an exclusion or rejection of Jewish people, an inclusion of all people!

# John Wayne and Tarryn Lee Kennedy

**UNSTOPPABLE**





UNSTOPPABLE

WORLD

GUSTAV ADOLF  
SEA

A R C T I C O C E A N

I N D I

WORLD

**UNSTOPPABLE**

# First of its kind?

- Different from every previous evangelistic approach
  - Not tied to political power – you are defeated, you are now us – you will worship our god
  - Not tied to national identity – ours is the God of the Jews, if you want in, be Jewish
  - Tied to the Cross - Jesus' life, death and resurrection
  - And every approach is personal



# First of Many

- If our trust is in Jesus:
  - We have been given gifts by God
  - We are sent out
  - We have a story to tell
  - We celebrate the ongoing, unstoppable grace of God

# This Week

- What are the places in your week into which God has ‘sent’ you?
- Who are the people in your life that God has put on your heart?
- Pray and watch for opportunities