

July 6th – Shaking the Dust From Your Feet

“But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.”

(Acts 13:50-51)

Throughout our lives, we’re encouraged to never give up. I’m sure you’ll agree that’s a good thing. It doesn’t matter if you’re studying to pass a test, if you’re entering the last phase of your workout, if you’re getting close to clocking out – we reap wonderful rewards when we refuse to give up. And yet, there are times we need to realize that expending any additional effort on some projects would not be helpful. It’s in those moments that we need the wisdom to wrap things up and move on.

Today’s verses come from the missionary journey of Barnabas and Paul. Traveling through Asia Minor, they came to the lesser known Antioch in Pisidia. Upon arriving, they entered the synagogue and began to preach Jesus. The Jews were not thrilled to hear about Jesus, but the Gentiles were eager to hear more about the grace of God. On the next Sabbath, “the whole city came together to hear the Word of God” (Acts 13:44). The Jews were overtaken with jealousy and began to contradict them.

Even in spite of the Jewish resistance, “the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region” (Acts 13:49). Yet, the Jews were able to expel Barnabas and Paul from the region. The Bible says, “they shook off the dust from their feet against them.” This was a symbolic action that meant they were finished and moving on. That said, you and I should do all we can to reach everyone for Christ, but if there are some who refuse to listen, we need to move on to others that still have not heard.