

# **This Is Why We Are Here: Sharing the Gospel with Boldness**

God has a purpose for placing you exactly where you are. As we explore Acts 13, we see how Paul and Barnabas were invited to speak in a synagogue, not because they forced their way in, but because God opened a door for them to share their message.

## **God Will Make a Way for Your Gift**

Wherever God calls you, He will open doors to use you. Your age, ability, or skill level doesn't matter—if you know Jesus Christ, God will create opportunities for you to share Him with others.

We often look at our workplace, school, neighborhood, or family situation and think these environments disqualify us from ministry. That's incorrect. God has strategically positioned you where you are for a purpose.

This doesn't mean turning every conversation into a religious lecture. It simply means recognizing divine opportunities when they appear and stepping through those doors when God opens them.

## **Your Message Doesn't Need to Be Fancy**

Paul himself said in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 that he didn't use "lofty words and impressive wisdom" when sharing the gospel. Instead, he focused solely on "Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified." He came in weakness, with plain speech, relying on the Holy Spirit's power rather than persuasive rhetoric.

Do you sometimes feel your explanation of faith is too plain? Paul wasn't worried about that. The goal isn't to impress people with your knowledge but to point them to Christ.

## **You Speak the Language of Your Environment**

Paul was able to effectively communicate in the synagogue because he understood Jewish history and culture. He spoke their language. Similarly, you understand the language of your workplace, school, or community in ways others don't.

God made you the way you are, who you are, and placed you where you are for a reason. You can reach people in your environment in ways that others cannot because you speak their language and understand their world.

## **Be Ready to Share Your Faith**

1 Peter 3:15 instructs us to "always be ready to give a logical defense to anyone who asks you to account for the hope and confident assurance that is within you." This means being prepared to explain what you believe and why.

If you're not sure how to start, begin with your personal story of how Jesus met you. What difference has He made in your life? Then point them to Christ. Your testimony is powerful because it's uniquely yours.

## **The Gospel Is Built on Historical Truth**

When Paul addressed the synagogue, he didn't start with abstract concepts. He began with Israel's history—from Egypt through the wilderness, to David, and finally to Jesus. He established a foundation of historical truth that his audience could connect with.

Our faith isn't founded on a whim, a nice idea, or a myth. It's built on prophecies given over hundreds of years by different people, all pointing to Jesus with remarkable accuracy. This gives us confidence when sharing our faith—we're not peddling fairy tales but proclaiming historical truth.

## **The Heart of the Gospel Message**

Paul's message centered on this crucial truth: "But God raised him from the dead" (Acts 13:30). We don't serve someone still hanging on a cross or lying in a tomb. We serve the risen Christ who defeated death, sin, and secured eternal life for us.

This is what our faith is about. Everything else can distract us, but we must always return to the fact that Jesus conquered death and the devil forever. When this passion grips us, it naturally pours out to others as we share our faith.

## **Salvation Comes Through Jesus Alone**

Paul made it clear: "Through him [Jesus] forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you. And through him everyone who believes is justified and declared free of guilt" (Acts 13:38-39).

Salvation doesn't come through our religious efforts, attendance, giving, or prayer. These things don't save us. We are saved by God's grace through Jesus alone. Our good works flow from our salvation, not as requirements to earn God's favor, but as natural responses to growing in relationship with Him.

As Ephesians 2:8-9 reminds us: "For it is by grace that you have been saved... not of yourselves... not as a result of your works... so that no one will be able to boast."

## **Expect Both Hunger and Opposition**

After Paul and Barnabas shared their message, many people begged to hear more. In fact, "almost the entire city gathered" the following week to hear about salvation through Christ (Acts 13:44).

There is genuine hunger in the world for truth and life. People are searching for meaning and purpose. When we share the gospel with enthusiasm and joy, many will respond positively.

However, we should also expect opposition. Paul and Barnabas faced jealousy, contradiction, and slander (Acts 13:45). Yet they "spoke out boldly and confidently" anyway. Opposition doesn't mean you've done something wrong—it often means you've hit a nerve with the truth.

## **Plant, Water, and Leave the Results to God**

When faced with rejection, Paul and Barnabas "shook the dust from their feet" and moved on (Acts 13:51). They didn't give up on sharing the gospel; they simply recognized that they couldn't force people to believe.

Our responsibility is to plant and water seeds of faith. Only God can make them grow (1 Corinthians 3:5-9). We're often results-oriented, feeling like failures if someone doesn't immediately accept Jesus. But that's not our responsibility. Our job is to faithfully share the message and leave the results to God.

# Life Application

This week, I challenge you to:

1. Identify the unique "language" of your environment (workplace, school, neighborhood) and consider how you can naturally share Jesus there.
2. Practice telling your personal story of how Jesus has changed your life in 2-3 minutes. Keep it simple and authentic.
3. Look for one opportunity this week to plant or water a seed of faith with someone God has placed in your path.
4. If you've been carrying the weight of past rejections when sharing your faith, consciously "shake the dust off" and recommit to your mission.

Ask yourself:

- Where has God strategically placed me, and how can I be His witness there?
- Am I trying to impress people with religious knowledge, or am I simply pointing them to Jesus?
- Have I been carrying the burden of others' responses to the gospel instead of leaving the results to God?
- What would change if I approached evangelism with more joy and less pressure?

Remember, we share the gospel not out of obligation but out of the overflow of what Jesus has done for us. This is why we are here.