**The Way of Ministry (Acts 13:44-52)**

 The right model of ministry is to always bear witness to our Lord Jesus. Greetings dearly beloved in Christ on this beautiful Sunday. Today we’re going to study an important step in the ministry taking place in the book of Acts, specifically the change in ministry focus. As it is evident from the earlier chapters of the book, the Apostles would always visit the Jewish synagogues in the areas where they stopped in their travels. However, due to frequent arguments and debates, their ministry was often disturbed. Today’s passage is just such an example, which caused a major change in the direction of the Apostles’ ministry. The way of ministry remained correct, but today we’re going to see just what their principle was in their service of the Gospel. In the end of this message, we will reiterate that the right model of ministry is to always bear witness to our Lord Jesus. Let us speak, therefore, about this key and indispensable principle.

 As those called by Jesus, we are called to always spread His Good News. As it was their usual practice, Paul and Barnabas were gathered with the people in the local Jewish synagogue to share the Gospel. We find written that the whole city was gathered to hear the word of the Lord. However, and unfortunately, when the Jewish leaders of the community became jealous due to the success of the two, they began to argue with Paul and began to insult them. At this juncture we find that Apostles’ and especially the Apostle Paul’s primary principle for ministry: “The Gospel must always be preached – and if it is not accepted by one group of people, the preacher must continue onto another.” In point of fact, Jesus had said this too to the 70 disciples earlier in the Gospel of Luke in the 10th chapter – to the effect of, “if they do not accept you, shake the dust off of your feet and move on from there…” **The principle of Christian ministry is to always minister, to whomever is accepting of it.**

 Spurgeon went one day into Albert Hall, where he was to preach on the coming Sabbath. In order to test out the hall with his voice, he mounted the platform and repeated the text, "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (I John 1:7). Not long afterward he received word that the repetition of that text had borne rich fruit. A painter, at work in some part of the great hall, was startled when he heard the voice of Spurgeon repeating in the empty hall that great sentence of John's. The words so impressed him that he was converted and brought to Christ.

 We do not know when and who needs to come to know Jesus. True, we are not saying that all of us were born preachers – but all of us as believers in Christ have been saved into service, and that being a service of love, a constant service. Yes, in today’s world we may be rejected, because the lost are often deceived or even enemies with Jesus. But just as Jesus instructed his disciples to shake the dust off their feet and move onto the other cities when their preaching was rejected, Paul the Apostle also desires to model ministry for us with the same principle. Today, the Lord is encouraging us to continue our ministry to a different group of people, if the initial group does not receive it. If the Gospel is not accepted in one place (or by one person,) there are yet many who need to hear it. May this concept be clear to all of us:

 As those called out by Jesus, we are called to always spread the Good News.

The right model of ministry is to always bear witness to our Lord Jesus.

May the Lord bless you all. Amen.