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Unstoppable: The Book of Acts
Faithful to the Gospel in a Hostile World

4 Corners Church
November 2, 2025

The worldly-minded and the religiously misguided will fight against the work of the gospel, but faithful believers stand firm, filled with the Spirit, and keep preaching Jesus until the mission is done.

Acts 13:44–52 *⁴⁴ The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶ 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. ⁴⁷ 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.”*

⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰ 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. ⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

We are living in Acts 13 and 14 times: The Clash of Kingdoms

1. Faithfulness – even when the religious have lost their way.

Religious jealousy is the ugliest kind.

They opposed Paul not because he was wrong, but because they were losing influence. Some of the harshest opposition you’ll face won’t come from pagans — it’ll come from the “religious.”

Paul didn’t back down. He didn’t water it down. He preached even louder.

“If you don’t want it, we’ll preach to someone who does.”

Faithful gospel people keep moving forward.

- There is a time to debate.
- There is a time to stop arguing.
- There is never a time to stop sharing the faith.
- Do not lose focus because others oppose.

2. Faithfulness When the Culture Turns Hostile (Acts 14:1–7)

The mission moves to Iconium — new town, same story.

- They preach the Word. People believe. Miracles break out.
- And again — the city divides.

“The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord...” (14:2,3)

- They didn’t run. They didn’t hide. They stayed bold.
- Not arrogance, not anger — Spirit-filled courage.
- We’re not here to blend in; we’re here to bear witness.

3. Faithfulness in the Face of Violence (Acts 14:8–22)

In Lystra, Paul heals a crippled man — the city loses its mind.

- They think he’s a god. They try to worship him.
- Just when he convinces them not to... the same crowd turns around and stones him.
- You can’t base your mission on popularity.
- You can’t build your life on the applause of others.

“But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city...” (14:20)

- He got back up. Bruised but not broken. Bloodied but not beaten.
- You can’t kill a man who’s already died to himself.
- Do you have those who will gather about you?

4. Faithfulness to Strengthen the Saints (Acts 14:21–23)

After the beating, Paul and Barnabas go back — to the same cities — to strengthen the believers.

- They tell them the truth: “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.” (14:22).
- “It’s gonna be hard — but it’s gonna be worth it.”
- Faithful leaders don’t sugarcoat reality.

5. Faithfulness to the Mission Until the End (Acts 14:24–28)

Paul and Barnabas return home and report everything God did.

- They finish their mission. They celebrate.
- They give glory to God for opening doors to the Gentiles.
- The gospel cannot be stopped.
- You can oppose it, mock it, legislate against it — but the Word of God always prevails.