

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 13 44-52



The nobles of the peoples are gathered together with the people of the God of Abraham.

For the powers of the earth belong to God and he is very highly exalted.  
Psalm 47:9-10

## **Praising:**

Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;  
many kinds of darkness in this world abound –  
sin and want and sorrow; so we must shine,  
you in your small corner and I in mine.

## **Reading:**

Acts 13:44-52  
One week later

Word has got around and it's a full house at the synagogue in Jerusalem. However the welcome awaiting Paul and Barnabas the previous Sabbath quickly evaporates. Instead of a reasonable theological conversation with everyone either agreeing or agreeing to differ, the mood turns confrontational. While certainly dramatic, the apostles'

reaction is not impulsive or vindictive. Their responsibility to proclaim the Word to the children of Abraham is discharged. Citing Isaiah's call to bring salvation to the ends of the earth, they will now turn their attention to the Gentiles. By contrast with the Jews, the Gentiles respond to the good news joyfully and that seals the apostles' fate: the Jews prevail on the great and the good of Pisidia to bring their influence to bear, and Paul and Barnabas are promptly run out of the district – apparently to their delight!

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Be with us Lord in our conversations for Christ

- that we may find your words on our lips when we run out of our own
- that we may resist every temptation to lose patience or to react when provoked
- that we may see when it is time to give-up and move on gracefully

Father: in the people I talk to for you, I pray for real questions rather than clever ones, for sincere searching rather than spiritual thrill-seeking, for sincerity rather than for sparks.  
Amen

## **Doing:**

Wednesday, 25 May 2016