

*Recap of 12/12/21 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 13:42-14:2*

- 1. The setting for this portion of Acts is that the religious leaders were upset, jealous, over the acceptance that Paul's message was getting. The main idea is that the gospel divides, but opportunity goes hand-in-hand with opposition. The proper response to this is to persevere, to not give up.*
- 2. "The will to persevere is often the difference between failure and success." (David Sarnoff)*
- 3. Paul and Barnabas were up to the task. "These two were brave men; and it always takes courage to be a Christian." (Barclay)*
- 4. Why do people oppose the gospel? They hate the message because:*
  - it wounds their pride*
  - it calls them to helplessness instead of independence*
  - it calls for them to be weak – they want to be strong*
- 5. "The Jews of Pisidian Antioch did not reject and then actively oppose the Christian message on its merits, but out of jealousy. Ultimately, however, neither the motives of those who reject our message or even their active hostility should matter to us. There are those who will respond. Those who reject harm only themselves." (Richards)*