

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Dead Guy Summer // Cyril and Methodius
Pastor Gabe
July 2, 2023

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your favorite part of the Fourth of July?

Reading: Acts 13:44-52

Outline:

- I. Resistance to Mission (v. 44-45)
 - A. Earlier in Acts, Paul and Barnabas arrive in Antioch of Pisidia and give a sermon of encouragement to the synagogue leaders. Many people came to faith, but there were Jewish leaders who were resistant to Paul's message.
 - B. The same happened to Cyril and Methodius. They presented Christianity to the Khazars after the leader of the Khazars decided they needed a religion to follow. However, the Khazars ultimately decided not to go with Christianity.
Q: How do you deal with resistance to Christ in the world around you?
- II. Joy of Mission (v. 46-48)
 - A. Paul tells the Jewish leaders that since they cast aside his proclamation of the Gospel, it was then time for him to preach to the Gentiles. Thus, many Gentiles rejoiced and came to faith.
 - B. Cyril and Methodius similarly shared the Gospel with the people of Moravia. Until they started ministering, the church in Moravia subscribed to the heresy that Scripture could only be in Hebrew, Greek, or Latin. However, Cyril and Methodius translated the gospels and liturgy into the local language, bringing more common people to Christ.
Q: How can you share Jesus's message with all people?
- III. Tension in Mission (v. 49-52)
 - A. Even when Paul and Barnabas leave due to resistance to the Gospel, the disciples are still filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit. Similarly, Cyril is quoted as saying, "However tired and physically worn out I am, I will go with joy to that land; with joy I depart for the sake of the Christian faith."
 - B. "When we look to the cross, there's no confusion; we see a God who loves us so much that he emptied himself for us. When you grasp that message there is inescapable joy." -Pastor Gabe
Q: When have you felt joy despite tension in the mission?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we tell when the reaction of others is truly *resistance to the mission*?
- 2) How can we tell when others' resistance to the mission may be reasonably founded?
- 3) How can we continue to be joyful despite tension in the mission?
- 4) What do we do when we feel the tension in the mission is unbearable?

Suggestion for further study:

- Jude 1:10 Q: How does this verse help you understand others' resistance to the mission?
- Isaiah 49:6 Q: How does this verse frame "the mission" for us?

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, thank you for sending your Gospel out into the world for all people. Thank you for providing examples of faithfulness in Cyril and Methodius, and teach us to reach out and share your Word with all people. Strengthen us in times of tension in the mission, and teach us to always be joyful. Amen.