

The Acts of the Apostles - Chapters 13-14 Study Questions

1. **Acts 13:5** What was Paul's strategy when he entered a new missionary frontier? What were the practical as well as theological considerations that shaped this strategy?

Footnote p. 228, 13:5 The synagogues

2. **Acts 13:34–35** How does Paul build his case for the Davidic kingship of Jesus from Isaiah and Ps 16?

Footnote p. 229, 13:34-35 Paul continues

3. **Acts 13:44–51** Sometimes, what looks like a disaster or a setback actually turns out for the best. As you reflect on your life with the Lord and his Church, what are some examples where an apparent disaster has actually resulted in good fruit?

4. **Acts 13:47** What point is Paul making by citing Isaiah 49:6 to support his Gentile ministry? **Isaiah 49:6** {God} says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Footnote p. 230, 13:46 First to you

Footnote p. 230, 13:47 I have set you

5. **Acts 14:1–4** The preaching of the gospel sometimes leaves a community divided, some siding with one side, some with another. What divisions over the gospel exist in your family, community, parish, or diocese?

If you are on either side, how can you evaluate whether your opinion aligns with the Church's Magisterium?

CCC 85 "The task of giving an authentic interpretation of the Word of God, whether in its written form or in the form of Tradition, has been entrusted to the living teaching office of the Church alone. Its authority in this matter is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ."⁴⁷ This means that the task of interpretation has been entrusted to the bishops in communion with the successor of Peter, the Bishop of Rome.

CCC 86 "Yet this Magisterium is not superior to the Word of God, but is its servant. It teaches only what has been handed on to it. At the divine command and with the help of the Holy Spirit, it listens to this devotedly, guards it with dedication and expounds it faithfully. All that it proposes for belief as being divinely revealed is drawn from this single deposit of faith."⁴⁸

6. **Acts 14:4** What is the significance of Luke's use of the word "apostles" here?

Footnote p. 230, 14:4 The apostles

7. **Acts 14:15** What are the “vain things” that Paul exhorts the Lystran crowd to turn from? What is the substance of his message and how is this similar to today's society?

Footnote p. 231, **14:15 These vain things**

Isaiah 44:9 All who make idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit; their witnesses neither see nor know. And so they will be put to shame.

8. **Acts 14:22** Why are “many tribulations” necessary for one to enter the kingdom of God? What is Paul exhorting people to do in the face of suffering?

Footnote p. 231, **14:22 Many tribulations**

1 Peter 4:12-16 (p. 457)

9. **Acts 14:23** To what does the Greek expression, here translated “appointed”, allude? What did the rite provide for the Church?

Word Study p. 446, **Elders**

Footnote p. 231, **14:23 Appointed**