



“Advancing the Gospel” Part 2
Acts 14:8-18 ♦ Pastor Jim Lennon
November 9, 2025

Introduction – *The apostle Paul and Barnabas are sent out by the church in Syrian Antioch to advance the Gospel in other regions. This is referred to as Paul’s first missionary journey.*

When they reached Pisidian Antioch they shared the Gospel among people who knew the Bible.

But when some Jews began to oppose them, they went to Iconium, and when they were opposed there, they left and were redirected to take the Gospel deep into pagan Gentile territory, where in a pluralistic society, their ministry would take a dramatic turn.

So far we’ve learned that to share the Gospel in a pluralistic society we must Speak the message of the Gospel, Help them with their needs, and AnsWER their deepest longings for something more in life, which the Gospel does.

Today, we will learn one more thing in the acronym S.H.A.R.E. about how Paul and Barnabas shared the Gospel in a pluralistic society.

I. Reveal and Challenge the Idols of the Culture.

- A. To share the Gospel with people who don’t believe or know the Bible, we must back up and begin at the Beginning by pointing them to the True God, who is the Creator and has blessed them with many good things.
- B. We must then reveal the false gods they are serving to get the life they want and challenge their service to those idols.

- C. In a polytheistic culture, you worshiped the god you believe would get you the life you wanted.
- D. Paul explains that their idols are dead and worthless and cannot bring them the fulfillment they desire.
- E. Paul urges them to turn from their idols to serve the living and true God.

III. Present-day Parallels and Applications.

- A. Every person worships something.
(See Romans 1)
- B. If you are not worshipping and serving the True God, then you are worshipping and serving an idol, and that idol is your real master.
- C. We are mastered by the thing we really desire.
- D. To reach people in a pluralistic culture we must first identify and challenge the present-day idols that people are serving, in order to explain how the True God has provided our ultimate freedom from the worthless things we are enslaved to and has given us the promise of life’s eternal happiness in the Gospel.

Conclusion.