

Acts 13:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

Analysis

They came to Antioch in Pisidia (παρεγένοντο εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν τὴν Πισιδίαν, paregenonto eis Antiocheian tēn Pisidian)—not Syrian Antioch (their sending church) but Pisidian Antioch, a Roman colony 3,600 feet above sea level in central Asia Minor. This strategic city on the Via Sebaste (Roman military road) had a substantial Jewish population and became Paul's evangelistic beachhead for the Galatian region. The 100-mile mountain journey from Perga was arduous, possibly contributing to John Mark's departure.

Went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down (ἐλθόντες εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῶν σαββάτων ἐκάθισαν, elthontes eis tēn synagōgēn tē hēmera tōn sabbatōn ekathisan)—the simple action of sitting among worshipers follows standard synagogue protocol. Visitors with teaching credentials were typically invited to speak (v. 15), providing Paul his evangelistic platform. This pattern (arrive, attend synagogue, receive invitation, preach Christ) recurs throughout Acts.

Historical Context

Pisidian Antioch was founded by Seleucus I around 280 BC and later became a Roman colony under Augustus. The Jewish synagogue served as diaspora Judaism's center for worship, Scripture reading, and community gathering. Sabbath services

included the Shema, prayers, Torah reading, prophetic reading, and exposition—the context for Paul's sermon (vv. 16-41).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's consistent synagogue attendance demonstrate strategic thinking in missions—going where people already gather around Scripture?
2. What does 'sitting down' among worshipers teach about incarnational ministry and cultural respect in evangelism?

Interlinear Text

αὐτοὶ	δὲ	διελθόντες	ἀπὸ	τῆς	Πέργης	παρεγένοντο	
G846	But	when they departed	from	G3588	Perga	they came	
	G1161	G1330	G575		G4011	G3854	
εἰς	Ἀντιόχειαν	τῆς	Πισιδίας	καὶ	εἰσελθόντες	εἰς	τὴν
into	Antioch	G3588	in Pisidia	and	went	into	G3588
G1519	G490		G4099	G2532	G1525	G1519	
συναγωγὴν	τῇ	ἡμέρᾳ	τῶν	σαββάτων	ἐκάθισαν		
the synagogue	G3588	day	G3588	on the sabbath	and sat down		
G4864		G2250		G4521	G2523		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 16:13 (Parallel theme): And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

Acts 17:2 (Parallel theme): And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

Acts 14:19 (Parallel theme): And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Acts 13:5 (Parallel theme): And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

Acts 18:4 (Parallel theme): And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

Acts 13:44 (Parallel theme): And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

Acts 9:20 (Parallel theme): And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 19:8 (Parallel theme): And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 13:42 (Parallel theme): And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.