

# Acts 13:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

## Analysis

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**They were filled with envy** (ἐπλήσθησαν ζήλου)—the Jews' opposition to Paul stemmed not from theological conviction but from jealousy at seeing Gentile crowds flock to hear the gospel. The verb plēthō (filled) indicates being completely dominated by this emotion.

**Contradicting and blaspheming** (ἀντιλέγοντες καὶ βλασφημοῦντες)—their response escalated from mere disagreement (antilegō, speaking against) to blasphemēō (blasphemy, slander). By rejecting God's Messiah and reviling His name, they committed the very blasphemy they accused Jesus of. This pattern—religious leaders opposing God's work out of envy—echoes the Sanhedrin's jealousy in Acts 5:17 and Pilate's recognition that envy motivated Jesus's crucifixion (Matthew 27:18). Their reaction fulfilled Jesus's warning that persecution would come from religious authorities (John 16:2).

## Historical Context

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This occurred during Paul's first missionary journey (c. AD 47-48) in Pisidian Antioch. The synagogue initially welcomed Paul (v.42), but when 'almost the whole city' gathered the next Sabbath (v.44), the Jewish leaders' jealousy erupted. This marked a pivotal moment: Paul announced he would turn to the Gentiles (v.46), establishing the pattern for his entire ministry.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How might envy disguise itself as theological concern in church conflicts today?
2. When have you witnessed spiritual leaders opposing God's work because it threatened their position or popularity?

## Interlinear Text

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ἰδόντες	δὲ	οἱ	Ἰουδαῖοι	τοὺς	ὄχλους	ἐπλήσθησαν
saw	But	G3588	when the Jews	G3588	the multitudes	they were filled
G1492	G1161		G2453		G3793	G4130
ζήλου	καὶ	ἀντιλέγοντες	τοῖς	ὑπὸ	τοῦ	Παύλου
with envy	and	contradicting	G3588	by	G3588	Paul
G2205	G2532	G483		G5259		G3972
λεγόμενοις	ἀντιλέγοντες	καὶ	βλασφημοῦντες			
those things which were spoken	contradicting	and	blaspheming			
G3004	G483	G2532	G987			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jude 1:10** (Parallel theme): But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

**Acts 18:6** (Parallel theme): And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.

**Acts 19:9** (Parallel theme): But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

**Acts 5:17** (Parallel theme): Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him, (which is the sect of the Sadducees,) and were filled with indignation,

**1 Thessalonians 2:16** (Parallel theme): Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

**1 Peter 4:4** (Parallel theme): Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

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