

# Acts 13:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

## Analysis

---

**But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city**—This reveals the synagogue's strategic use of social influence. The "devout" (σεβομένας, sebomenas) women were likely God-fearers, Gentile adherents to Judaism who had social standing. Jewish leaders weaponized these influential converts to mobilize civic opposition.

**Raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them** (ἐπήγειραν διωγμὸν, epēgeiran diōgmon)—The Greek "stirred up" suggests deliberate incitement. This pattern—initial receptivity followed by elite-driven opposition—would mark Paul's ministry throughout Acts. The expulsion from "their coasts" (ὁρίων, horiōn, "borders") was civic banishment, not mere synagogue discipline. Yet this persecution fulfilled Christ's prediction (Matthew 10:23) and scattered the gospel seed further, demonstrating God's sovereignty over even hostile rejection.

## Historical Context

---

Pisidian Antioch (not Syrian Antioch) was a Roman colony with significant Jewish and God-fearer populations. Women of status wielded considerable influence in Asia Minor's civic life. Jewish communities often cultivated relationships with elite Gentile sympathizers to gain political leverage. Paul's first missionary journey (AD

47-48) encountered this pattern repeatedly—initial synagogue access, then organized opposition.

## Related Passages

---

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

---

1. When the gospel threatens existing power structures, what tactics do opponents use today to "stir up" social opposition?
2. How does this verse show that persecution can advance rather than hinder God's mission—and how should that shape our response to opposition?

## Interlinear Text

---

οἱ	δὲ	Ἰουδαῖοι	παρώτρυναν	τὰς	σεβομένας	γυναῖκας
G3588	<b>But</b>	<b>the Jews</b>	<b>stirred up</b>	G3588	<b>the devout</b>	<b>women</b>
G1161	G1161	G2453	G3951	G3588	G4576	G1135
καὶ	τὰς	εὐσχήμονας	καὶ	τοὺς	πρώτους	τῆς πόλεως
<b>and</b>	G3588	<b>honourable</b>	<b>and</b>	G3588	<b>the chief men</b>	G3588 <b>of the city</b>
G2532	G2532	G2158	G2532	G3588	G4413	G4172
καὶ	ἐπήγειραν	διωγμὸν	ἐπὶ	τὸν	Παῦλον	καὶ τὸν
<b>and</b>	<b>raised</b>	<b>persecution</b>	<b>against</b>	G3588	<b>Paul</b>	<b>and</b> G3588
G2532	G1892	G1375	G1909	G3588	G3972	G2532
Βαρναβᾶν	καὶ	ἐξέβαλον	αὐτῶν	ἀπὸ	τῶν	ὁρίων αὐτῶν
<b>Barnabas</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>expelled</b>	<b>them</b>	<b>out of</b>	G3588 <b>coasts</b>	<b>them</b>
G921	G2532	G1544	G846	G575	G3725	G846

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Acts 14:19** (References Paul): 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 14:2** (Parallel theme): But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

**Acts 21:27** (Parallel theme): And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him,

**Acts 17:13** (References Paul): But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

**Acts 13:45** (References Paul): 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.

**Acts 13:43** (References Paul): Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

**2 Timothy 3:11** (Parallel theme): Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

**Isaiah 66:5** (Parallel theme): Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.

**Acts 8:1** (Parallel theme): And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

**Acts 6:12** (Parallel theme): And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

