

# 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" (ὅριων, 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

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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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

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οἱ δὲ Ἰουδαῖοι παρώτρυναν τὰς σεβομένας γυναῖκας  
G3588      But      the Jews      stirred up      G3588      the devout      women  
G1161                    G2453                            G3951                            G4576                            G1135

καὶ τὰς εὐσχήμονας καὶ τοὺς πρώτους τῆς πόλεως  
and      G3588      honourable      and      G3588      the chief men      G3588      of the city  
G2532                    G2158                            G2532                                    G4413                                    G4172

καὶ ἐπήγειραν διωγμὸν ἐπὶ τὸν Παῦλον καὶ τὸν  
and      raised      persecution      against      G3588      Paul      and      G3588  
G2532                    G1892                            G1375                                    G3972                                    G2532

Βαρναβᾶν καὶ ἐξέβαλον αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τῶν ὁρίων αὐτῶν  
Barnabas      and      expelled      them      out of      G3588      coasts      them  
G921                    G2532                            G1544                                    G846                                    G3725                                    G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**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,

