

**“Primetime (10):  
Nobody Said It Was Going to Be Easy”**  
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- ❖ Acts \_\_\_\_\_ —“We must \_\_\_\_\_ to enter the kingdom of God.”
- ❖ **And to prove it:**
  - Story #1 (Acts 13:1-12)—the sorcerer Bar-Jesus (and the powers of darkness) created such havoc that Paul had to strike him \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Story #2 (Acts 13:13)—the “primetime” mission got so tough so quickly that John Mark \_\_\_\_\_!
  - Story #3 (Acts 13:14-45)—the Jews in Pisidian Antioch \_\_\_\_\_ on Paul after his sermon in the synagogue.
  - Story #4 (Acts 13:46-52)—the Jewish leaders then “stirred up \_\_\_\_\_” against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from the region.
  - Story #5 (Acts 14:1-7)—Jewish antagonists in Iconium hatched a plot to \_\_\_\_\_ Paul and Barnabas, so they “fled” to the next cities to preach the gospel.
  - Story #6 (Acts 14:8-20)—but in Lystra the crowd thinks Paul and Barnabas are gods (after healing a lame man) and begins to offer animal sacrifices to them, which both men desperately seek to halt, only to have Jews from the previous cities arrive in time to lead the crowd in successfully \_\_\_\_\_ Paul.
- ❖ **Why is it true?**
  - Reason #1—it’s the truth of the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - As long as there is an \_\_\_\_\_ that interrupts the normal flow of life in the creature, the process of transforming that foreign object into a stunning creation of beauty goes on.
    - The more \_\_\_\_\_, the greater the beauty.
    - *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing:* “The \_\_\_\_\_ of life are God’s workmen, to remove the impurities and roughness from our character. Their hewing, squaring, and chiseling, their burnishing and polishing, is a \_\_\_\_\_ process . . . But the [pearl] is brought forth prepared to fill its place in the heavenly temple. Upon no useless material does the Master bestow such careful, thorough work. Only His precious [pearls] are polished after the similitude of a palace.” (10)
  - Reason #2—it’s the truth of the \_\_\_\_\_.
    - John Mark
    - *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing:* “Principalities and powers and wicked spirits in high places are arrayed against all who yield obedience to the law of heaven. Therefore, so far from causing grief, [opposition] should bring \_\_\_\_\_ to the disciples of Christ, for it is an evidence that they are following in the steps of their Master.” (30)

*“Lo, I am with you always,  
even to the very end.”*

14:22, go through many hardships, blind, quit the mission for Jesus, “heaped abuse”, persecution, stone, stoning, pearls, irritant, “suffering”, trials, painful, powers, joy