Answer

Let us read the passage:

Acts 13:42–45 (NIV)

> *42 As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath.*
> *43 When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.*
> *44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.*
> *45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy; they began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.*

Meaning of “The Synagogue Was Dismissed”

The phrase “the synagogue was dismissed” means the people dispersed or scattered after the worship service had ended. In

other words, it refers to the act of the congregation leaving and going their separate ways once the gathering was over.

So, the word *dismissed* does not mean that the synagogue was destroyed or closed, but simply that the assembly ended and the people dispersed.

To make the meaning clearer, the verse may be expressed like this:

> *Acts 13:42–43 (clarified rendering)*
> *42 As they were leaving, the people begged that these matters be spoken about again on the next Sabbath.*
> *43 After the people had dispersed, many Jews and devout converts followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke with them and encouraged them to remain in the grace of God.*

Theological Lessons from This Passage

1. The Readiness of the Early Church Apostles

This passage shows the zeal and availability of the apostles in the

early church. Paul and Barnabas preached wherever opportunities arose—especially in synagogues—using every chance to proclaim Christ.

Romans 1:16 (NIV)

> *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.”*

2. The Work of the Holy Spirit in Convicting Hearts

After the service ended, many people continued to follow Paul and Barnabas. This shows that the Holy Spirit was powerfully at work, drawing hearts to Christ beyond the formal gathering.

John 6:44 (NIV)

> *“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them.”*

3. Encouragement to Persevere in God’s Grace

Paul and Barnabas did not only preach; they also encouraged believers to remain steadfast in the grace of God.

Acts 14:22 (NIV)

> *“Strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.”*

4. A Call for Believers Today

Just as the apostles were diligent in God’s work, we too are called to serve the Lord with commitment and passion, trusting Him to increase His grace in our lives.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)

> *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.”*

Conclusion

The phrase “the synagogue was dismissed” simply describes the orderly dispersal of worshipers after the service. From this passage, we learn about the faithfulness of the apostles, the power of the gospel, and our responsibility to remain steadfast in God’s grace.

Maranatha — Come, Lord Jesus!

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