

First Baptist Church of Progress Village
Wednesday Bible Study
Acts of the Apostles – Chapters 13-14
Todd E. Hammond, Senior Pastor
May 1, 2024

Key Phrase: Mission of the **Missionary** Church

I. The spiritual **leaders** in Antioch.

Acts 13:1 (KJV) *Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.*

Barnabas – First name Joses, nicknamed Barnabas “son of consolation”. Levite, supporter, preacher, mentor, encourager, etc.

Simeon – nicknamed or “called” Niger, meaning Black, suggesting he was dark-skinned, African, or both.

Lucius – Identified as being from Cyrene, the same place in North Africa Simon of Cyrene (gospels)

Manaen – notable church leader because he was raised in the same circles as Herod Antipas I (grandson of Herod the Great). So he had converted and was a spiritual leader in the church at Antioch.

Saul – Once fanatical religious persecutor, now turned apostle by Christ’s intervention following Stephen’s stoning.

Acts 13:9 (KJV) *Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,*

Saul (*Shaulos*) is **Hebrew** name means “requested one”, Paul (*Paulos*) is **Roman** name meaning “little”.

A. Early New Testament **prophets** received **practical** revelation.

Acts 11:27-28 (KJV) *And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.*

B. **Apostles** received and taught **doctrinal** revelation.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (KJV) *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

C. The First Missionary Journey

Acts 13:2-4 (KJV) *As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.*

Year was about **44-45** AD, lasting about 2 years covering 700 miles on land and 500 miles by sea.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1) Paphos on Cyprus | 5) Lystra |
| 2) Perga of Pamphylia | 6) Derbe |
| 3) Antioch of Pisidia | 7) Antioch of Syria |
| 4) Iconium | |

II. The spiritual opposition in Paphos.

Barjesus – Also called Elymas the sorcerer, worked to turn Sergius Paulus away from the gospel.

Acts 13:6-8 (KJV) *And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.*

Satan's trickery is always about turning as many people as he can from Jesus.

Paul rebukes Barjesus in the same way Jesus arrested him on the Damascus road, Blinding him.

Acts 13:11 (KJV) *And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.*

First recorded miracle by Paul, and it was a sign to affirm the gospel and lead others to the truth of the gospel. Not used as a weapon!

Acts 13:12 (KJV) *Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.*

Every gift, then and today, are meant to draw non-believers to faith in Christ and serve others for Christ. Never personal service!

Acts 13:13 (KJV) *Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.*

This separation will be the cause of some conflict later between Paul, John Mark, and Barnabus.

III. The spiritual shift of focus in Antioch of Pisidia.

Acts 13:14-15 (KJV) *But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down. And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.*

A. Paul and Barnabus began in Jewish Synagogues. Acts 13:16-41 is Paul's first recorded sermon. When you read it you will notice the similarity with Stephen's sermon in Acts 7:2-53.

The messages both end with indictments of the Jewish rulers refusing to accept Jesus as Messiah/Christ in fulfillment of the law and prophets ushering in Jesus's death for the salvation of all nations.

Stephen's Wrap Up

Acts 7:51-53 (KJV) *Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.*

Paul's Wrap Up

Acts 13:38-41 (KJV) *Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things,*

from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you. (Ref Habakkuk 1:5-6)

B. Jews continued to be **saved**, but many became **jealous** because the message was also opened to **Gentiles** who were ready to receive the gospel with open hearts.

Acts 13:42-45 (KJV) *And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. 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. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. 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.*

C. Paul and Barnabas reinforce that the Gospel was given first to the Jews, but was always intended to spread to all nations.

Acts 13:46-47 (KJV) *Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.*

D. We will still find those **glad** about the Gospel and those **mad** about it.

Acts 13:48-52 (KJV) *And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region. 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. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.*

E. Believers control whether or not we **share** it, we don't control whether or not they **accept** it.

IV. **Victory** follows **Persecution** throughout the remainder of the journey.

A. More of the same in **Iconium**

Acts 14:1-2 (KJV) *And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.*

Acts 14:5-7 (KJV) *And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them, They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: And there they preached the gospel.*

B. Persecution continued to cause them to move to a different area to **spread** the Gospel further.

V. Paul and Barnabus ensure only **God** gets the **glory**!

A. Notice parallels of the miracles Paul (Gentiles) does to those of Peter (Jews).

Acts 14:8-10 (KJV) *And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.*

Peter healed the lame Jewish man of 40 years from birth outside the Beautiful Gate at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Paul heals a crippled Gentile man from birth in Lystra.

Acts 14:11-13 (KJV) *And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.*

B. Spiritually mature believers have a responsibility to quickly and lovingly **correct** and **redirect** others to Jesus.

Acts 14:14-15,18 (KJV) *Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.*

C. Paul **suffered** greatly, but **continued** on despite the hardships.

Acts 14:19-21 (KJV) *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. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,*

D. Paul's **tenacity** that once persecuted Jesus, was put to work for Jesus.

Acts 14:22-26 (KJV) *Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.*

25 And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia: And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

E. Paul and Barnabas return to their home stop in Antioch and share **testimony** of God's work abroad.

Acts 14:27-28 (KJV) *And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. And there they abode long time with the disciples.*

Next Week: Read Chapters 15, 16, 17, 18:1-22