



Bridge Church Home Groups Questions

Series: Unstoppable Part 3 – A Study in Acts

Message: The Governor and the Gaslighter

Pastor Ryan Pedde

Read Acts 13:4-12 then use the following questions to kick-start your discussion:

1. In verses 6-8, we see Sergius Paulus, an intelligent, open-minded leader, keeping an unhealthy, spiritually abusive sorcerer in his inner circle. Elymas wants to keep Sergius Paulus away from the truth found in Jesus. In our world today many live under the spell of radical ideologies, social media algorithms, and unhealthy relationships that keep them from the truth.
 - a. What are some modern-day sorcerers (media, habits, or specific voices) that tend to whisper in our ears and create a "fog" of confusion? How do we identify when a person or influence is "perverting the right ways of the Lord"?
2. In the passage, Paul doesn't negotiate with Elymas. Instead he confronts him head on. Why is it dangerous to negotiate or bargain with unhealthy influences or sins in our lives? What does it look like to confront the lies with the Word of God rather than just trying to rationalizing or ignoring them?
3. Despite being intelligent, open-minded, and wanting to hear the Word of God, the Governor was still vulnerable to the influence of Elymas.
 - a. Why is it vital to pray for our leaders (political, workplace, or church) specifically regarding who has their ear?
 - b. How can we be agents of light who speak truth, love and encouragement to those in positions of power?
4. This passage marks a major shift where Saul becomes Paul and takes the lead in the mission. Paul's first major act is setting a captive free from spiritual darkness.
 - a. If you feel you've been under a "spell" of low self-esteem or worldly influence, what is one truth from Scripture you can use to cut into the lies?
 - i. How does Christ's death and resurrection for you speak to your identity and worth?