

January 4, 2026 - Mission Possible

Acts 13–20 - Focus Passage: Acts 13:1–12

Opening Reflection

What's Your Favorite Miracle?

Think of your favorite miracle in the Bible.

Take a moment—and be ready to share if asked.

Reflect:

- Why do miracles capture our attention so easily?
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The Four Miracles

Miracle #1 – A Miraculously Diverse Church

The leaders of Antioch included:

- **Barnabas** – A Jewish Levite from Cyprus
- **Simeon called Niger** – Likely a man of color from North Africa
- **Lucius of Cyrene** – A Gentile believer
- **Manaen** – Raised with Herod the tetrarch
- **Saul (Paul)** – Former persecutor turned follower of Jesus

They came from vastly different backgrounds but shared one thing: **a love for Jesus.**

Reflect:

- Why is unity across deep differences such a powerful witness?
 - What makes diversity challenging—and necessary—in the church?
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Miracle #2 – God Speaks and the Church Obeys

While worshiping and fasting, the Holy Spirit speaks:

“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

The church listens—and sends its strongest leaders.

God speaks.

The church hears.

The church obeys.

Reflect:

- Why do worship and fasting often prepare us to hear God's voice?
 - What might obedience have cost the church at Antioch?
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Miracle #3 – Evil Is Overcome

In Cyprus, Paul confronts Elymas the magician, a false prophet who opposed the Gospel. Paul declares temporary blindness, and it happens.

This moment shows that:

- God removes distractions
- God rules over evil
- God makes a way for His mission

Reflect:

- What distractions can hinder God's work today?
 - How does this passage build confidence in God's authority?
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Miracle #4 – A Powerful Leader Believes

Sergius Paulus, the Roman proconsul:

- Intelligent
- Influential
- Spiritually curious

After witnessing God's power and hearing the Gospel, **he believes**.

Luke includes this story to show that the Gospel is for:

- The powerful and the overlooked
- Jews and Gentiles
- Individuals and nations

Reflect:

- Why is this conversion significant at the beginning of Paul's journeys?
 - What does it teach us about the reach of the Gospel?
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What's Your Favorite Miracle?

It's hard to choose:

- A diverse church united in Christ
- God speaking clearly
- Evil defeated
- A leader coming to faith

Together, they tell one story:

God's mission is possible.

The Bigger Question

Acts is not written only to inform us—but to form us.

Do we believe God's mission is possible today—in us?

The early church challenges us to become:

- A diverse church
- A listening church
- A sent church
- A confident church

Reflect:

- Where might God be calling you to trust Him more fully?
 - What would it look like for our church to reflect Antioch?
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Mission and the Lord's Supper

Kevin DeYoung writes:

"There can only be a mission imperative because there is first a glorious indicative... We go only because He reigns."

We come to the Lord's Table remembering:

- Jesus' mission is complete
- Sin and death are defeated
- Our mission flows from His victory

Final Reflection:

- If Jesus has already conquered, what mission might He be inviting you into now?
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