

**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.**

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## 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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