



Acts 11:19-21 – The Church in Antioch of Syria.

John 20:29 – Jesus speaks to Thomas about believing without seeing.

Acts 11:24 – Description of Barnabas as a good man, full of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 12:1-3 – King Herod Agrippa's persecution of the church, the execution of James, and the arrest of Peter.

Hebrews 12:6 – "The Lord disciplines those He loves."

Deuteronomy 29:29 – "The secret things belong to the Lord our God."

Acts 12:13-14 – Rhoda recognizing Peter at the door.

Acts 13:2-3 – The Holy Spirit appoints Barnabas and Saul for ministry.

Acts 13:9-11 – Paul confronts the sorcerer Elymas.

1 Corinthians 9:22 – Paul's approach to ministry: "I have become all things to all men."

Acts 13:12 – The governor believes after witnessing Paul's miracle.

Acts 13:38-39 – Paul proclaims forgiveness through Jesus.

Acts 14:22 – Encouragement to endure hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.

Acts 14:27-28 – Returning to Antioch to report all that God had done.

Sermon Title: Going Up and Down the Mountain

Text: Acts 11-14

I. The Church in Antioch: A Growing Movement (Acts 11:19-21)

- Persecution scattered the believers, spreading the Gospel.

- Gentiles begin to receive the message of Jesus.
- **John 20:29** – “Blessed are those who believe without seeing.”
- The Gospel is crossing physical and spiritual boundaries.

II. Barnabas and Saul: The Call to Ministry (Acts 11:24-26, 13:2-3)

- Barnabas is sent to Antioch to strengthen the believers.
- Recognizing the need, he brings Saul (Paul) to help minister.
- The Holy Spirit calls Barnabas and Saul for a special mission.
- The term "Christian" is given in Antioch—"Belonging to Christ."

III. Persecution and Suffering: The Valleys of Faith (Acts 12:1-3)

- Herod Agrippa begins persecuting believers.
- James is killed; Peter is imprisoned.
- Suffering is a reality in the Christian life:
 - **Hebrews 12:6** – "The Lord disciplines those He loves."
 - **Deuteronomy 29:29** – God's ways are beyond our understanding.
- Peter's miraculous release from prison shows God's power.

IV. Paul's First Missionary Journey: Highs and Lows (Acts 13-14)

- **Power in Preaching** (Acts 13:9-12) – Paul rebukes Elymas the sorcerer.
- **Rejection and Endurance** (Acts 13:38-39) – Some Jews oppose Paul.
- **Persecution and Miracles** (Acts 14:22) – Hardships come with spreading the Gospel.
- **Returning to Antioch** (Acts 14:27-28) – Testifying about God's work.

V. Lessons from the Mountain and the Valley

- 1. Faith grows in both highs and lows.**
- 2. God is sovereign in suffering and success.**
- 3. The Gospel is worth the journey.**

Closing Challenge:

- Are you prepared for both the mountain and the valley?
- Trust God's plan through every season.