

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (June 16, 2024) Father's Day FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

This morning, not only in our church but across the country, father's, grandfather's, uncles, men of all shapes and sizes, are celebrated. I am thankful for those who stepped into my life and helped me understand what it meant to be a man; particularly a Christian man, husband and father (now grandfather). Many of those who influenced and guided me were not related by blood, but by a shared faith. In our long passage today (*even though only a portion is included below, please read the entire passage*) the Holy Spirit is present, the church listens, obeys, and sends. Three men set out. Their message of Jesus infects and inspires as it crosses national borders, religious prejudices and persecutions and reshapes human history, our history.

The Holy Spirit in Barnabas & Saul: Wide for the World

(Acts 13:1-52) ESV *Due to the length of this passage verses have been omitted*

¹Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. ⁶When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. ⁷He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰and said, 'You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? ¹¹And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.' Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. ¹²**Then the proconsul believed**, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

Verses 13-43 omitted here

⁴⁴The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were **filled with jealousy** and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. ⁴⁶And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, 'It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "**I have made you a light for the Gentiles**, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."⁴⁸ And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. ⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. ⁵⁰But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. ⁵¹But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to the church in Antioch?
2. What do we know about Barnabas, Saul (Paul), John Mark?
3. How was the message of Jesus received?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. What does, "being sent out by the Holy Spirit" mean? v.4
5. What does, "a light to the Gentiles" mean? v.47

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

6. Reflect on a time you sensed God calling / guiding you. Share
7. Are there times people think they hear the leading of the Holy Spirit but are clearly mistaken? Examples?
8. Are there ways we can be certain we are hearing from God? What are those ways? How does God confirm His will for us?
9. In what area of your life do you now need to hear God's voice?
10. How is God speaking to you? Where is He sending you?

As you spend time praying, remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural part of your day. Prayer is a conversation: talking to God and listening to God. Ask God to help you hear His voice, and obey His voice. Ask God where He wants you to go. Ask God for the strength, wisdom, and heart, to go. God is with you, and He will speak to you, because He loves you.