

Acts 13

Acts 13:1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2** As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." **3** Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

Preaching in Cyprus

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. **5** And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as *their* assistant.

6 Now when they had gone through [a]the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, **7** who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. **8** But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) [b]withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. **9** Then Saul, who also *is called* Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him **10** and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, *you* son of the devil, *you* enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? **11** And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord *is* upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time."

And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. **12** Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

- Spiritual growth
 1. A person becomes a saved person
 2. Becomes a serving person
 3. Becomes a ministering person
 4. Becomes a sent person
- Jesus anticipated the spreading of the gospel that was His design Acts 1:8
- The chapter opens in Antioch and closes in a different Antioch
- Paul was not sent from Jerusalem; he was sent from Antioch
 - Jerusalem was the mother church, but Antioch was the mission church
 - Persecution in Jerusalem reached an all-time worst
- The church at Antioch *Ekklesia* = an assembly, congregation, church; the whole body of Christian believers
 - Originally, the idea of a church was a group of citizens who were called out of their homes to meet in a public setting
 - A church is not a place; it is a people
 - Meeting together to worship God is a Church
 - All churches are registered in heaven, **Revelation 1:19** Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. **20** The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the

angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

- The assembly of people in the seven churches are represented in heaven, and so are the pastors
- Prophets and teachers
- The prophets and teachers at Antioch
 - Barnabas
 - Son of Encouragement
 - Jew from Cyprus, a Levite
 - Simeon
 - Some believe he was the Simon of Cyrene who carried the cross for Jesus
 - Lucius of Cyrene
 - Manaen
 - The foster brother of Herod Antipas
 - Son of Herod the Great and took his brother's wife Herodias
 - Ruled in Galilee
 - Jesus briefly stood trial before him
 - John the Baptist denounced him for marrying Herodias, and she made sure he was killed
 - Yet Manaen is counted here with the prophets and teachers
 - Manaen decided to not follow the flow but to follow Jesus.
 - It doesn't matter who you are, where you come from....
- Saul of Tarsus
- There was no discrimination in the early church—all of these men were diverse
- **They ministered to the Lord**
 - *Leitourgeó*= minister, serve publicly
 - Could be translated as *worship*
 - Used to refer to when the priests ministered in the temple and Tabernacle
 - They were ministering **to the Lord**. Not **for the Lord** or **of the Lord**
 - Worship is not about you; it's about Him
 - We should aim for our worship to bless the Lord **Psalm 34:1** *I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.*
 - **Zephaniah 3:14** Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemy. The King of Israel, the Lord, *is* in your midst; You shall [f]see disaster no more. 16 In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:m “Do not fear; Zion, let not your hands be weak. 17 The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness

- The Lord delights in our worship, **John 4:23** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.
- We as believers have something that pleases, and ministers to the heart of the Father: Worship
- **Acts 13:2** As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” **3** Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.
 - They fasted, abstained from food,
 - The Holy Spirit spoke, maybe through one of the prophets
 - Separate to ME. Barnabas and Paul. This is a calling unto ministry
 - God is still calling people unto ministry today
 - Fasted and prayed, Laid hands (recognition) (ratifying) (recognition) this was an ordination
 - And sent them away

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit,

- God is a missionary God
 - He has always sent people places Abraham
 - Why would God send Abraham out of his land **Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
 - The purpose of missions is that others may be blessed
 - Jesus was a missionary sent from heaven to earth **Luke 19:10** for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 - The Holy Spirit is all about sending people
 - Jesus sent out the disciples **John 20:21** So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.
 - God is about turning **disciples** (follower, one who follows one’s teachings) into apostles
 - **Apostolos = a messenger**, one sent on a mission, an apostle
 - The great commission
 - Sent to do the work of the kingdom
 - Preach the gospel, build churches