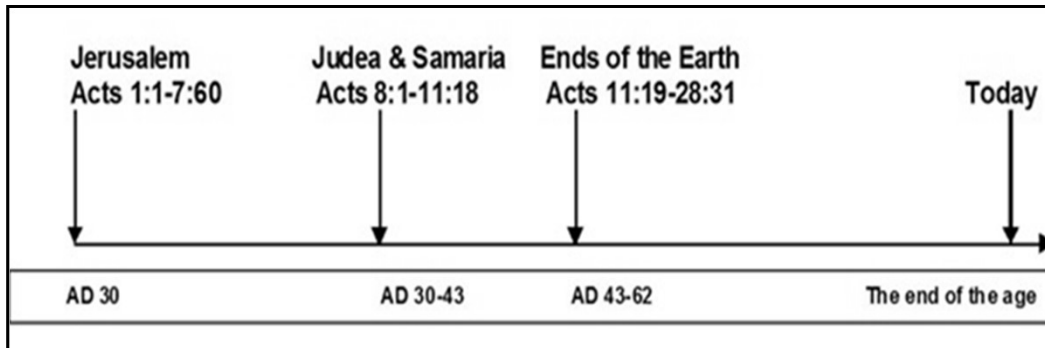


For the Love of the Mission!

(5 Lessons from Paul's missionary journeys)

Acts 13-21

Acts 1:8 sets the stage for mission.



⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Act 1:8 ESV).

To the Ends of the Earth.

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." (Act 13:47)

Paul goes on 3 Missionary Journeys.

- i. 1st Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14).
- ii. 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 15-18).
- iii. 3rd Missionary Journey (Acts 18-21).

5 Lessons from Paul's Missionary Journeys

- i. Endure difficulty for Christ.
- ii. Focus on receptive people.
- iii. Work together.
- iv. Go to the people.
- v. Contextualize the message.

1. Endure difficulty for Christ.
(Acts 14:2, 19; 17:5, 13; 18:12; 20:3, 19; 21:27)

Interview with a Missionary (2 Cor 11:23-31)

- i. 5 times -- I received forty lashes less one.
- ii. 3 times -- I was beaten with rods.
- iii. 1 time -- I was stoned.
- iv. 3 times -- I was shipwrecked.
- v. Danger from: rivers, robbers, my own people, Gentiles, in the city, in the wilderness, at sea, false brothers ...

Worth the sacrifice.

“⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith”
(Phi 3:7-9 ESV)

2. Focus on receptive people.
(Acts 13:43; 14:1; 16:14; 17:4; 18:7)

Focus on those who will listen!

- i. The gospel is folly to the perishing (1Co 1:18, 22).
- ii. Turn to people who listen (Acts 13:46).
- iii. God works through people who listen (Acts 16:14).
- iv. God provides supporters in his time (Acts 17:4).

3. Work together for the gospel.
(Acts 13:2-4; 14:23, 26-28; 20:17; 18:22, 23).

**Kingdom expansion utilizes
Christian unity.**

Work together.

- i. Paul equipped people to be the church, not to rely on him (Acts 14:23; 20:17; 1Thess 1:8).**
- ii. Paul made disciples (Acts 16; 1Ti 3:5).**
- iii. Paul was never alone in ministry (Rom 16).**

Together we:

- i. Send & support missionaries (Acts 13:2-4; 14:26-28; 18:22, 23).**
- ii. Bring people with us (Acts 12:25; 13:13; 15:40).**
- iii. Share the gospel (1Thess 1:1, 8).**
- iv. Recruit fellow workers (Acts 17:4; 18:2, 3; 19:22 20:4).**

4. Go to the people.

(Acts 9:31; 15:23; 16:6,9; 1 Cor. 9:2).

To the people ... to the ends of the earth.

- i. He went to the most populous provinces.**
- ii. He went to the city centers (Acts 19:10).**
- iii. He went to the synagogues (Acts 13:5,14; 14:1; 17:1 2, 10; 18:4, 19).**
- iv. He went to the people.**

5. Contextualize the message.

(Acts 13:16; 17:22, 1 Cor 9:19f)

Share the gospel.

i. Learn the language.

ii. Relate to the people.

iii. Share the gospel on their level.

Pray for opportunities to share the gospel. Share the gospel in ways that relate to the people.