

ACTS - FROM RESURRECTION TO REVELATION

Lesson 21

Review: *As the scope and severity of persecution increases at Jerusalem church, the church at Antioch sent Paul and Barnabas with their offering. God settles His account with Herod, who initiated the persecution. Acts 12:20-25*

I. God's Testimony Of Grace Seen In Antioch's Trophy Case - Acts 13:1

- A) Barnabas - God's testimony of SELF SACRIFICE
** He sold his estate holdings in Cyprus and gave the proceeds to the Lord.
*He stood with Paul when the early church questioned his conversion.
He sought out Paul to take the lead in discipling the converts at Antioch
- B) Simeon, called Niger - God's testimony of SHARED SUFFERINGS
**Mark mentions Simon of Cyrene as being compelled to carry the cross of Jesus and being the father of Rufus and Alexander. Being from Cyrene (North Africa), he was probably dark-skinned. Rufus was known of Paul.
*At the time of the writing of Mark's Gospel, Rufus and Alexander seemed to be mentioned as being well known by the church. (Mark 15:21)
Who would better illustrate what it means to "bear his cross and follow Him"?
- C) Lucius, of Cyrene - God's testimony of His SOVEREIGN SEEKING
**Though it cannot be proved, there is strong speculation by many that if the same Simon of Cyrene did come to Christ, he took that message back home where Lucius of Cyrene believed the report.*
- D) Manaen - God's testimony of His SANCTIFYING SALVATION
**Manaen grew up as a foster brother of Herod the tetrarch. It was this Herod who would later commit adultery with his brother's wife, behead John the Baptist, and mocked Jesus before sending Him to Pilate to be crucified.
The obvious exposure to such wickedness, couple with the obvious advantages of such power and luxury were no match for the "riches of Christ's love"
- E) Saul (Paul) - God's testimony to SURRENDERED SERVICE
**His salvation began with "What wilt Thou have me to do, Lord?"
*His life was "being all things to all men that he might by all means save some."
His life ended with "I am ready to be offered up... I have finished my course."

II. God's Trophies Are Not Designed For Display, But For Service - Acts 13:2-4

- A) Designed for ministry "to the Lord" by PRAYER
- 1) The ministry of SEEKING and SANCTIFYING
 - 2) The ministry of SACRIFICE and SELF-DENIAL
 - 3) The ministry of SENSITIVITY and SUBMISSION
- B) Designed for ministry "for the Lord" by OBEDIENCE
- 1) A service to which we are CONSECRATED to God
 - 2) A service to which we are CALLED of God
 - 3) A service to which we are COMMISSIONED by God