

Paul And Barnabas On Mission: Acts 13.

I. (1) The church in Antioch.

The church in Antioch had leaders gifted in teaching and prophecy; knowledge of the future to encourage and to warn.

II. (2) The Holy Spirit calls Barnabas and Saul.

The Spirit singles out Paul and Barnabas as they served and fasted (denying self-certain pleasures and conveniences with intention to seek God's mind and strength) in the church; God had some work to accomplish through them.

Acts 9:15-16 - *He is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.*

III. (3-52) The First missionary journey.

Galatians 1:15-16 - *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood.*

The period between Saul's conversion and commissioning was about over ten years.

i. (4-5) Seleucia – Cyprus – Salamis.

Preaching in a Synagogue; the custom of the open synagogue was that the leaders invited any learned man to speak to the congregation on the Sabbath. A synagogue service started prayer, then the reading from the Law (the first five books of the Old Testament), then a reading from the Prophets, then, if there was an educated person present, they were invited to speak on subjects related to the readings.

ii. (6-12) Paphos.

They encountered resistance from a false prophet, a sorcerer, an enemy of righteousness, trying to block one man from hearing and receiving the truth. This city, just like others in that day, was known for its immorality and idolatry.

Ephesians 6:12 - *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

- iii. (13-52) Perga, Pamphylia, John leaves them, moving on to Pisidia, in a synagogue offered an opportunity to preach, to Iconium.

Paul takes his listeners from God's call to Abraham to the resurrection; pointing them to Jesus as the only means of forgiveness and justification, a similar message Peter and Stephen preached.

Romans 5:18 - *Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.*

Ephesians 1:7 - *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.*

Paul's message was received and the people were hungry for more. Some believing, the Jews filled with hatred and envy opposes Paul and Barnabas.

If Jewish people had to go in or through a Gentile city, when leaving the city they would shake the dust off their feet as a gesture saying, "We don't want to take anything from this Gentile city with us." In this sense, Paul is saying "I don't want to take anything with me from you Jesus-rejecting people."

Paul is a great example of his own command to *be constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit* - **Ephesians 5:18**.

Jeremiah 1:5 - *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*

Galatians 1:15 - *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace.*

Ephesians 2:10 - *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Colossians 4:17 - *And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."*

2 Timothy 4:5 - *But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

Colossians 3:17 - *And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*