

Acts 13-14 Paul's 1st Missionary Journey

*Tonight, we begin our 3-part journey through the 2nd part of Acts.
In Acts 12 – 28, Paul takes center stage as the main human character
(the Holy Spirit is the main character of the entire book!).
Paul had undergone a name change: from the Hebrew, Saul, he took the
Greek version of his name, Paul. This change demonstrates his call to be the
“Apostle to the Gentiles!”*

13: 1-3 SEPARATED & SENT

Q: Who are the people listed in v.1? PREACHERS & TEACHERS

- > From these leaders, Barnabus and Saul were sent!
- > In the midst of ministry, God gave them A MISSION
 - * What should we expect?
People TO BE GIVEN a mission
ill: April Brown & the homeless man
 - * BE OPEN to what God places on your heart.

Q: What if ... all 30 of you came to me with 30 different missions?

- > We can't start 30 different ministries at once!
- > v.3 – the FASTED & PRAYED about the mission

13: 4-12 ELYMAS THE SORCERER

The sorcerer was a JEWISH FALSE PROPHET (cf. Acts 8:19 – Simon the sorcerer)

Q: For what purpose did Elymas use his sorcery? TO GAIN AUTHORITY as a FALSE PROPHET

What was Elymas trying to do?

How did Paul respond?

Keys:

- (1) If we try to evangelize people, there will be GOALIES
- (2) Can we act spiritually aggressive against them?
 - > Paul and Barnabus were COVERED IN PRAYER
- (3) What led to Sergius Paulus' conversion?
 - a. He SAW THE MIRACLE (blinding)
 - b. He was ASTONISHED at the TEACHING (gospel message)

* Note the two-fold activity of preaching/teaching and supernatural activity in conversion!

13: 42-52 SUCCESS OR FAILURE?

Q: Would you consider this event a success for Paul and Barnabus?

- > What happened at the last minute to impact our evaluation?
- > ill: UGA vs LSU

In spite of these circumstances, the disciples were FILLED WITH JOY (v.52)

- > What is the key to joy? Not in the OUCOMES but in OBEDIENCE!

The missionaries “shook off the dust ...” What does this mean? (see Mt. 10:14)

- > A dramatic symbol of DIVINE ABANDONMENT

14: 8-20 A ROLLER-COASTER RIDE

Q: What was the response of the people of Lystra when the Holy Spirit healed the lame man?
The people thought the missionaries were GODS.

* EXCITING MIRACLES without BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING doesn't grow the Kingdom of God!

Q: Can you think of a time when you experienced a similar imbalance?

- Excitement without understanding >
- Understanding without excitement >

Q: Have you ever seen people tend to worship the preacher rather than the God the preacher serves?
> How can preachers reduce the likelihood of this tendency?

* vv. 19-20 – How did Paul and Barnabus' popularity change?

- > What does this tell us about the people to whom we minister?