

Acts 13: 1 - 13

Paul's First Missionary Journey Begins (part 1)

The 13th chapter is a turning point in the book of Acts. It marks the beginning of the _____ phase of our Lord's great commission.

He outlined geographically how that witness should proceed, beginning in Jerusalem, then in Judea and Samaria, and finally unto the uttermost parts of the _____.

A. Barnabas and Saul are called and sent by the Holy Spirit.

1. (1) The people at the church in Antioch.

(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.

The whole event begins with a group of _____ in the church in Antioch who are exercising the spiritual gifts that were given to them.

In Acts 12:25, we learn Barnabas, Saul, and John Mark were all at the church in Antioch, having returned from delivering a gift of _____ to the church in Jerusalem (Acts 11:27-30).

Since Niger means _____, he was presumably a black African among the congregation at Antioch, and possibly he was the same Simeon who _____ Jesus' cross (Luke 23:26).

The Manaen mentioned here had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch. This was the _____ Herod who beheaded John the Baptist and presided over one of Jesus' trials (Luke 23:7-12).

The Greek text again make clear that this man, Manaen, was a foster _____ of Herod. He was related to him as a foster brother and thus was very close to the king.

2. (2) The Holy Spirit calls Barnabas 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."

They were doing the service of _____ under the new covenant, offering their bodies as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).

As part of their service to the Lord, they also _____. Why did they fast?

Presumably, the call came through the ministry of _____ in the church at Antioch, though it could have come simply through the inner witness of the Holy Spirit.

God had a _____ work He had appointed to Barnabas and Saul to do.

The calling God had for the life of Paul had _____ been stated in 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.*

God gave a timetable - _____. Before, God had told Paul through Ananias what his calling was, but not that it was now. Now meant there was to be no _____.

If we assume they were fasting and praying about the need of the world for Jesus, we can see how God was _____ their prayer - by using them!

3. (3) The Holy Spirit sends Barnabas and Saul.

(3) Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

They were sent with fasting and prayer; now they had something to _____ pray and depend on God about!

The laying on of _____ was a formal commissioning to this ministry; certainly Barnabas and Saul were “ordained” before this, but now they were entering a different sphere of ministry.

Notice that the church in Antioch _____ Barnabas and Saul out. They were supported and sent by a specific congregation. As far as we know, this had _____ happened before in the history of the church.

Barnabas and Saul went out without any of these things, only with the call and power of the _____.

B. Ministry in the cities of Seleucia, Salamis and Paphos.

1. (4) First stop: Seleucia.

(4) So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

And group of Christians can send someone, but if the Spirit doesn’t send them, it won’t amount to eternally _____ ministry.

And, since Seleucia wasn’t far from Antioch, where there was a _____ church, it isn’t difficult to assume there was _____ a group of Christians there in that city.

2. (5) On the island of Cyprus: The city of Salamis, on the east coast.

(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.

We are not told *why* they went to Cyprus first, but we do know Barnabas _____ on that island (Acts 4:36).

This custom of the “open synagogue” would give Barnabas and Saul many opportunities to _____. The custom of the open synagogue invited _____ learned man to speak to the congregation on the Sabbath.

We are not told this in the text here, but in The Epistle to the Romans we learn that it was revealed to Paul that the gospel was first to go to the _____ and then to the Gentiles.

This man, also known as *John Mark*, was mentioned previously in Acts 12:25. He is traveling _____ Barnabas and Saul on this trip. This is the same Mark who will later write the _____ that bears his name.

Mark would have been a valuable _____ for Barnabas and Saul.

Mark was not commanded of the Lord to go with them, but Saul and Barnabas _____ him.

As we shall see in the next account, he got into trouble on this journey when he and Paul had a serious _____.

3. (6-12) Ministry in Paphos, a city on the west coast of Cyprus.

(6) Now when they had gone through 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) 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.

The city Paphos was known for its _____: Paphos was infamous for its worship of Venus, the goddess of [sexual] love.

While ministering in the city, the representative of the _____ government (the proconsul) sought to hear the word of God.

Paul is opposed by a man named Elymas. His real name was Bar-Jesus, which means "_____ of Jesus."

Paul, using spiritual discernment and operating in the gift of _____, rebukes Elymas as being full of all deceit and all fraud, and pronounces the judgment of God upon Elymas.

As Elymas is struck with _____, we can't help but think Paul would remember his own experience with God.

Here was a man of conviction, bold in his _____, and willing to make a stand for what he believed.

As amazing as the miracle of Elymas' sudden blindness was, the good news the proconsul heard from Paul was even _____ amazing.

4. (13) From Paphos to Perga.

(13) Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

Paul, Barnabas and their companions leave the island of Cyprus, coming to Perga on the mainland of what is today _____.

We don't know exactly why John Mark went home to Jerusalem. Whatever the reason, Paul didn't appreciate the fact that John Mark _____ the missionary journey here.

Paul would _____ to reach the world for Jesus, and John would write one of the gospels.