

The Book of Acts Study Notes

CHAPTER 13

The Shift is On

We often miss what God desires to do because we keep things the way they've always been. Yet, the Church now moves from spreading the Gospel as a result of persecution to spreading the Gospel as the result of a system, structure and strategy – Evangelism.

Prophetically Spreading Out

- ❖ Antioch becomes the place of dispatch to take the Gospel further
- ❖ Vs. 1 – Certain prophets and teachers
 - Barnabas, Saul
 - Lucius of Cyrene – from northern Africa, faithful served with Paul – Rom. 16:21
 - Simeon the Niger – from northern Africa, a black man
 - Manaen – boyhood companion of Herod Antipas (who beheaded John the Baptist – Mat. 14)
- ❖ Vs. 2-4: Note that direction came from the Holy Ghost after prayer and fasting
 - Vs. 2: Separate me – set apart from other work to a specific work
 - Vs. 3: Stayed with the process of prayer and fasting
 - They laid hands on them – 1 Tim. 5:22-24
 - They sent them away – released them to this assignment
 - Vs. 4: sent forth by the Holy Ghost – different words used for sent; now, to dispatch
➔ **MAKE SURE YOU'VE BEEN RELEASED TO THE ASSIGNMENTS YOU ARE DISPATCHING TO...**

Paul's First Missionary Journey (Vs. 4-13)

- ❖ Ministry was assisted by John Mark – vs. 5, Acts 12: 12, 25
- ❖ Dealing with a Phony – vs. 6-11
 - Called Barjesus or Elymas (Exo. 7:11) – a false prophet but also a Jew
 - When Barnabas and Saul called by Sergius Paulus, Barjesus tried to block them
 - Those in positions of authority need the Word!
 - At some point, you've got to just deal with it – vs. 9-11
 - Now not Saul (sent) but Paul (little), his Greek name, signifying a shift, assuming leadership
 - Saw him through the spirit – vs. 9
 - Called him what he was – vs. 10
 - Deceitful, a fraud, a son of the devil, enemy of righteousness, perverter of God's ways
 - Barjesus had mouth but Saul had God's Hand – vs. 11
 - Blinded for a season and in need of leading
 - Vs. 12: The deputy believed

When Leadership Changes (vs. 13)

- ❖ Now the text says Paul and his company instead of Barnabas and Saul
- ❖ John Mark departs back to Jerusalem, causing tension for a season – Acts 15:36-39; 2 Tim. 4:11

Paul and Barnabas at Antioch of Pisidia

- ❖ Vs. 15: the rulers of the synagogue gave them permission to share the Gospel
 - Vs. 16: Paul addresses those that fear God
 - Vs. 17-41: shared their history and how it all points to Christ as Savior
 - Vs. 26: God sent word of salvation to them
 - Vs. 30: God raised Jesus from the dead
 - Vs. 39: Jesus justifies us from all things even which the law of Moses could not do
 - Vs. 41: warns them of danger of unbelief
- ❖ Vs. 42: the Gentiles wanted to hear the Word also
- ❖ Vs. 43: many Jews and Gentile converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas and were persuaded to continued in the grace of God – Titus 2:11-13

The Strategy of Opposition

- ❖ The opposition arose as the ministry of the Word was flourishing – vs. 44, Isa. 49:6
➔ **THE GREATER THE IMPACT, THE GREATER THE OPPOSITION**
- ❖ **Vs. 45: Reasons for the opposition:**
 - Envy at the numbers – 1 Sam. 18:7; Acts 5:17
 - The number of Gentiles – Jews couldn't tolerate seeing Gentiles receive the same from God
 - Not receiving the Word themselves – Rom. 1:16
- ❖ **Opposition strategy #1: Contradicting and Blaspheming – vs. 45**
 - Publicly opposed Paul –
 - Spoke evil of him to others
- ❖ Vs. 46: A classic response – if you don't want this, someone else does...
 - Necessary to come to you first – Mat. 10:6; Rom. 1:16
 - You put it from you – Mat. 21:33-43; John 1:11-13
 - You judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life: sentenced self because of actions, Mat. 22:8
 - We turn because you wouldn't turn – Acts 18:6
- ❖ Vs. 47: already prophesied that the Gospel would reach the Gentiles – Isa. 42:6, 49:6; Luke 2:32
- ❖ Vs. 48: The response of those hungry for the Word of God – were glad and glorified the Word
 - Vs. 48: As many as were ordained to eternal life believed
- ❖ **Opposition strategy #2: Stir Up the Influential to Persecute – vs. 50-52.**
 - Stirred up the devout and honorable (prominent) women – were Gentile proselytes – Acts 17:4
 - Stirred up the chief men of the city – the officers and leaders of the city
 - Persecuted Paul and Barnabas – Acts 7:52; 2 Tim. 3:11
 - Vs. 50: expelled them from their region
 - Vs. 51: Shake off the dust and move on – Mat. 10:14-15
 - Vs. 52: Note that their rejection was not an indication of a lack of God's Presence the power of the Holy Ghost – Mat. 5:11-12; John 16:22; Psa. 16:11