

LESSON 12

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (PART 1)

BARNABAS AND SAUL SELECTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (13:1-3)

The return of Barnabas and Saul (12:25) sets the stage for the beginning of chapter 13. Acts 13:1-3 is the watershed of the Book of Acts. Before this passage, the key figure is Peter, the key city is Jerusalem, and the key recipients of the gospel are Jews. After 13:1-3, the key figure is Paul, the key city is Antioch in Syria, and the key recipients of the gospel are Gentiles.

Another significance of chapter 13 is that in this chapter we reach stage three in Jesus' plan of evangelization. In 1:8 Jesus had said, "You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, *and even to the remotest part of the earth*" (emphasis added).

1. What role did fasting play in the Book of Acts?
2. When did God call Barnabas and Saul?

FROM ANTIOCH IN SYRIA TO CYPRUS (13:4)

By the phrase "sent out by the Holy Spirit," Luke showed clearly that the first missionary journey was the result of God's direction, not a decision of the Antioch "mission committee."

3. Where was Cyprus and what was it famous for?

ON CYPRUS: AT SALAMIS AND PAPHOS (13:5-12)

The group landed at Salamis, the metropolitan port on the eastern end of Cyprus and the commercial center of the island. Preaching first in the synagogue would be the pattern followed in the missionary journeys.

4. Why did Barnabas and Saul always begin by preaching in the synagogues?
5. Why is the change in Saul's name significant?

6. What does 13:9 mean by saying Saul was “filled with the Holy Spirit”?
7. What is particularly unique about the miracle Saul performed on Elymas?
8. Did the proconsul become a Christian?

TO PERGA (13:13)

When the mission team finished their work in Paphos, another significant change had occurred. To this point, Barnabas had been listed first in the team; from this point, Paul is usually listed first.

9. Why did John Mark most likely leave Barnabas and Paul?

TO ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA (13:14–52)

Though heavyhearted at John Mark’s departure, Paul and Barnabas did not quit. They decided to move inland to Antioch of Pisidia, the chief city of the Roman province of Galatia.

10. What kind of terrain would Paul and Barnabas have had to travel in order to reach Antioch of Pisidia?
11. What did the synagogue officials want when they asked for a “word of exhortation” (13:15)?
12. Why did Paul stand when he preached in the synagogue while Jesus always sat when He preached in that setting?
13. Although Paul’s sermon is reminiscent of Stephen’s address to the council, what is the major difference between the two?
14. What two reasons did Paul give for why Jesus’ execution did not disqualify Him as Messiah?
15. In what context was Psalm 2, quoted by Paul in 13:33, used in the Old Testament?
16. What was God’s astonishing “work” in Habakkuk’s day (see 13:41)?
17. What was the nature of the division that began in 13:45?

18. What were some of the reasons for giving the Jews the first opportunity to hear the gospel?
19. What does the word “appointed” mean, as used in 13:48?
20. What was the meaning of the ceremony that Paul and Barnabas participated in upon leaving Antioch?