



## Acts

### Lesson 12, Chapter 13

*In chapter 13 Luke begins to record the expansion of the gospel through the missionary endeavors of Saul, or Paul as he has now been named. Paul and his cohorts will take the message of Jesus to the regions of Asia Minor and beyond through a series of missionary journeys.*

*Paul is first accompanied by Barnabas who has already shown himself to be a faithful servant of God in Acts 4:26 and 12:25. The two men, having been set apart by the Holy Spirit, set out for Cyprus, an island in the Mediterranean, where Barnabas was from (Acts 4:36). They take with them John Mark who is Barnabas' cousin. It was John Mark's mother's home that Peter went to after his miraculous release from prison. After preaching the gospel throughout the cities of Cyprus, the missionaries move on to Pamphylia approximately 160 miles north of Cyprus along the coast of Asia Minor. Here John*

*Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. From Perga, in the area of Pamphylia, they traveled 100 miles farther north beyond the mountains of Pisidian Antioch. Here Paul preached at the local synagogue where many received his message and wanted to hear more.*

*Despite the opposition from the Jews, many Gentiles believed in the Lord, and the Word continued to spread throughout that region. In response to this the Jews acquired some of the devout, prominent women of the region to instigate a resistance against Paul and Barnabas and had them thrown out of town. Nevertheless, the two men rejoiced knowing that seeds had been planted. From here they moved southeast to Iconium. Paul's first missionary journey was well on its way.*

#### READ CHAPTER 13

1. *From the above information, follow the journey of Saul and Barnabas on a map.*



*This city of Antioch was located on the Syrian border (in contrast to Antioch in Pisidia located in Asia minor where Paul and Barnabas visited on their first missionary journey). It was the capital of the province of Syria and the third largest city in the Roman Empire. After the stoning of Stephen, many of the persecuted Christians fled the 300 miles from Jerusalem to Antioch. It became Paul's home base that he retreated to after each of his missionary journeys.*

2. *Who were the five prophets and teachers that were in Antioch?*

3. *Define the words “prophet” and “teacher.” What is the main difference between a prophet and a teacher? Why would both be needed in the process of the birth of the Church?*
  
4. *What part do you think fasting and praying would play in the process of sending the men out?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. *What was “the work” that God had called Saul to do? Acts 9:15-16.*



*The name Elymas means “wizard” and sorcerer is Greek “magos” which means “magician or Oriental scientist.” This is the same word used to describe Simon the magician who opposed Peter in Acts 8:9-23. A proconsul is a Roman official who had unlimited military and civil power over a specific region.*

6. *What possible reasons would there be for Elymas to attempt to keep Sergius Paulus from the faith?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. *Why would blindness (mist of darkness) be a fitting judgment for this man?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. *From Acts 15:36-41, what information can we gain about John Mark’s departure?*

9. *Using the following verses, summarize the main historical points of Paul's speech to the people of Pisidian Antioch.*

*13:17-20a*

*13:20b*

*13:21-22*

*13:23-25*

10. *Why would it be important to give a synopsis of Jewish history as well as quote Old Testament scripture (vs.33-41) before introducing the truth about Jesus?*

11. *What effect did Paul's sermon have on the people? Vs. 4*

*What effect did it have on the Jewish leaders? Vs. 44*

*How did the Gentiles respond? Vs. 48*

*What do you think is the reason for the different responses?*

12. *What does it mean that Paul and Barnabas "shook the dust from their feet?" See Matthew 10:11-15*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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