



## Lesson 16 – Heralds of the Gospel

Based on Acts 13:4-52

- 1) What happened after Paul and Barnabas had taught in Antioch for a time?

**Acts 13:1-3** Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and \_\_\_\_\_, the Holy Ghost said, \_\_\_\_\_ me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Thus, the apostles began their first missionary journey.

- 2) Where did they go?

**Acts 13:4** So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to \_\_\_\_\_.

Cyprus was one of the places to which the believers had fled from Jerusalem because of the persecution following the death of Stephen. It was from Cyprus that certain men had journeyed to Antioch, **“preaching the Lord Jesus.” Acts 11:20.** Barnabas himself was **“of the country of Cyprus” (Acts 4:36)**; and now he and Paul, accompanied by John Mark, a kinsman of Barnabas, visited this island field.

- 3) Who was with them?

**Acts 13:5** And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the \_\_\_\_\_: and they had also John to their minister.

Mark’s mother was a convert to the Christian religion, and her home at Jerusalem was an asylum for the disciples. There they were always sure of a welcome and a season of rest. It was during one of these visits of the apostles to his mother’s home, that Mark proposed to Paul and Barnabas that he should accompany them on their missionary tour. He felt the favor of God in his heart and longed to devote himself entirely to the work of the gospel ministry.

- 4) What resistance did they meet along the way?

**Acts 13:6-7** And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was \_\_\_\_\_: Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) \_\_\_\_\_ them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Not without a struggle does Satan allow the kingdom of God to be built up in the earth. The forces of evil are engaged in unceasing warfare against the agencies appointed for the spread of the gospel, and these powers of darkness are especially active when the truth is proclaimed before men of repute and sterling integrity. Thus, it was when Sergius Paulus, the deputy of Cyprus, was listening to the gospel message. The deputy had sent for the apostles, that he might be instructed in the message they had come to bear, and now the forces of evil, working through the sorcerer Elymas, sought with their baleful suggestions to turn him from the faith and so thwart the purpose of God.

- 5) How did Paul react?

**Acts 13:9-10** Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the \_\_\_\_\_, set his eyes on him, And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not \_\_\_\_\_ to pervert the right ways of the Lord?



6) What did God do through Paul?

**Acts 13:11-12** And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be \_\_\_\_\_, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, \_\_\_\_\_, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord

The sorcerer had closed his eyes to the evidences of gospel truth, and the Lord, in righteous anger, caused his natural eyes to be closed, shutting out from him the light of day. This blindness was not permanent, but only for a season, that he might be warned to repent and seek pardon of the God whom he had so grievously offended. The confusion into which he was thus brought made of no effect his subtle arts against the doctrine of Christ. The fact that he was obliged to grope about in blindness proved to all that the miracles which the apostles had performed, and which Elymas had denounced as sleight of hand, were wrought by the power of God. The deputy, convinced of the truth of the doctrine taught by the apostles, accepted the gospel.

It is the duty of the minister of Christ to stand faithful at his post, in the fear of God and in the power of His might. Thus, he may put to confusion the hosts of Satan and may triumph in the name of the Lord.

7) Where did they head next?

**Acts 13:13** Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to \_\_\_\_\_ in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

Their way was toilsome; they encountered hardships and privations and were beset with dangers on every side. In the towns and cities through which they passed, and along the lonely highways, they were surrounded by dangers seen and unseen. But Paul and Barnabas had learned to trust God's power to deliver. Their hearts were filled with fervent love for perishing souls. As faithful shepherds in search of the lost sheep, they gave no thought to their own ease and convenience.

It was here that Mark, overwhelmed with fear and discouragement, wavered for a time in his purpose to give himself wholeheartedly to the Lord's work. Unused to hardships, he was disheartened by the perils and privations of the way. He had labored with success under favorable circumstances; but now, amidst the opposition and perils that so often beset the pioneer worker, he failed to endure hardness as a good soldier of the cross. He had yet to learn to face danger and persecution and adversity with a brave heart. As the apostles advanced, and still greater difficulties were apprehended, Mark was intimidated and losing all courage, refused to go farther and returned to Jerusalem.

8) Where did Paul and Barnabas go next?

**Acts 13:14** But when they departed from Perga, they came to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

Mark's desertion caused Paul to judge him unfavorably, and even severely, for a time. Barnabas, on the other hand, was inclined to excuse him because of his inexperience. He felt anxious that Mark should not abandon the ministry, for he saw in him qualifications that would fit him to be a useful worker for Christ. In after years his solicitude in Mark's behalf was richly rewarded, for the young man gave himself unreservedly to the Lord and to the work of proclaiming the gospel message in difficult fields. Under the blessing of God, and the wise training of Barnabas, he developed into a valuable worker.

9) At the synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia, what happened?

**Acts 13:15** And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of \_\_\_\_\_ for the people, say on.

10) What did Paul have to say?

**Acts 13:16** Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that \_\_\_\_\_ God, give audience.



11) What was at the heart of Paul's message?

**Acts 13:23-25** Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a \_\_\_\_\_, Jesus: When John had first preached before his coming the \_\_\_\_\_ of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not \_\_\_\_\_ to loose.

Thus, with power he preached Jesus as the Saviour of men, the Messiah of prophecy.

12) What did he say next?

**Acts 13:26-27** Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent. For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

13) What followed?

**Acts 13:28-30** And though they found no \_\_\_\_\_ of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be \_\_\_\_\_. And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre. But God \_\_\_\_\_ him from the dead:

14) What Psalms does Paul quote to them?

**Psalms 2:7** I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my \_\_\_\_\_; this day have I begotten thee.

**Psalms 16:10** For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see \_\_\_\_\_.

15) And about David?

**Acts 13:36-37** For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But he, whom God raised again, saw \_\_\_\_\_.

16) And finally?

**Acts 13:38-40** Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses. \_\_\_\_\_ therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;

The Spirit of God accompanied the words that were spoken, and hearts were touched. The apostle's appeal to Old Testament prophecies, and his declaration that these had been fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth, carried conviction to many a soul longing for the advent of the promised Messiah. And the speaker's words of assurance that the "glad tidings" of salvation were for Jew and Gentile alike, brought hope and joy to those who had not been numbered among the children of Abraham according to the flesh.

17) What did they ask Paul and Barnabas?

**Acts 13:42-43** And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the \_\_\_\_\_ besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious \_\_\_\_\_ followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

18) Did they make good on their invitation?

**Acts 13:44-45** And the next sabbath day came almost the \_\_\_\_\_ together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake \_\_\_\_\_ those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

19) What followed?

**Acts 13:46-47** Then Paul and Barnabas \_\_\_\_\_, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.



- 20) How did Gentile converts react to this news?  
**Acts 13:48-49** And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.
- 21) How did the Jews react to this news?  
**Acts 13:50** But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised \_\_\_\_\_ against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.
- 22) What had Hosea predicted centuries before?  
**Hosea 1:10** Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor \_\_\_\_\_; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the living God.  
**Hosea 2:23** And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had \_\_\_\_\_ mercy; and I will say to them which were not \_\_\_\_\_, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.
- 23) What did Jesus tell the Jews?  
**Matthew 21:43** Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be \_\_\_\_\_ from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.
- 24) What did Jesus tell the crowd who watched Him ascend to the Throne of God?  
**Matthew 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach \_\_\_\_\_, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- 25) What was the message for EVERYONE that Paul met?  
**Ephesians 2:12-13** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and \_\_\_\_\_ from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made \_\_\_\_\_ by the blood of Christ.  
**Ephesians 2:19** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the \_\_\_\_\_, and of the household of God;

To those who believe, Christ is a sure foundation. Upon this living stone, Jews and Gentiles alike may build. It is broad enough for all and strong enough to sustain the weight and burden of the whole world.

- 26) When Barnabas and Paul were evicted from Antioch, how did they react?  
**Acts 13:51-52** But they shook off the \_\_\_\_\_ of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with \_\_\_\_\_, and with the Holy Ghost.
- 27) What Words of Christ are just as relevant today?  
**Matthew 5:11-12** Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of \_\_\_\_\_ against you falsely, for my sake. \_\_\_\_\_, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

The gospel message was advancing, and the apostles had every reason for feeling encouraged. Their labors had been richly blessed among the Pisidians at Antioch, and the believers whom they left to carry forward the work alone for a time, ***“were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.”***

**Can you see that God the Gospel is for everyone?**

**Do you want to be a bold witness?**

**When is the time to share Jesus with others?**