

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral

Lesson 27 "Paul's First Missionary Journey"

I. Introduction - We have been studying through *Acts* and how the gospel went viral through various revivals in the first century throughout the book of *Acts*. These include Pentecost - 3,000 saved, healing of lame man - *Acts 3-4* - 5,000 saved, *Acts 5* - all Jerusalem filled with the doctrine of Christ due to signs and wonders, the revival in Samaria - *Acts 8* - the outpouring of the Spirit on the Gentiles in *Acts 10*, and the awakening in Antioch in *Acts 11*.

A. As we move into *Acts 13*, we will see a transition in the book of *Acts* from primarily following Peter, James, and John to almost exclusively following the Apostle Paul and his associates. The only exception is *Acts 15* with the council of Jerusalem.

B. Today we are going to begin looking at Paul's first missionary journey which began in 46-47 A.D. On this journey he went to Cyprus, Pamphilia, Parts of Galacia, Cilicia, and back to Antioch (his sending church). The whole journey took about a year.

II. Paul's First Missionary Journey

A. **Acts 12:24-26** These verses immediately follow God's judgment on King Herod who was intensely persecuting Christians.

1. After his death the word of God went forward and multiplied.
2. Simultaneously Paul and Barnabas returned from their trip to Jerusalem where they took an offering to the brethren there who were suffering because of famine.

B. **Acts 13:1-3** Paul and Barnabas sent to the Gentiles

1. **Verses 1-2** The prophetic leaders and teachers at Antioch began to minister to the Lord (worship, pray) and fast the Lord spoke.
 - a. God said separate me Paul and Barnabas for the work I have called them. Timeout - when was Paul called? In *Acts 9*. He prepared (deserts of Arabia) and served in the church in Antioch, providing relief to those in Jerusalem for 14 years before he was separated to God's call on His life.
 - b. Preparation time is never wasted time. ex: Billy Graham example.
2. **Verse 3** Some are some sent and some went. It's important to have leaders in our lives recognize the gifts on our lives and send us. Too many people just go and have no backing or anointing to go. They have a call but are out of season.

C. **Acts 13:4-12** Paul's Ministry in Cyprus

1. **Verse 4** The Apostles first came to Cyprus. As we study Paul's journey's he generally went in an orderly fashion. He didn't go all over the place; he just went

from city to city in an orderly fashion. **Sometimes we overthink things and miss the will of God. What's in front of you? Do that.**

2. **Verses 5-8** Paul began ministering in the Synagogues (we will see this is typically his pattern and usually he didn't get great results because he was called to the Gentiles not the Jews - he often faced persecution in the synagogues)/

- a. When they got to Paphos, Sergius Paulus who was a Roman government official sent for the apostles.
- b. Elymas the sorcerer withstood them and tried to keep the proconsul from hearing the word (Satan comes for the word - parable of the sower).
- c. It's important to realize Satan will try to hinder the will of God. Just because we experience adversity doesn't mean we aren't in the will of God. The apostles had a clear word to go and he still had adversity.

3. **Verses 9-11** Paul took authority in the situation and spoke blindness over Elymas. Part of why Paul was so extreme was because Elymas was an unbeliever (Child of the Devil) and he was preventing someone from being saved.

- a. This is a manifestation of **Luke 11:20. 20 But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.**
- b. This is also an example of why Jesus said, "*And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven - **Luke 10:18.***"

4. **Verse 12** When Sergius saw what happened it caused him to believe. This is an example of signs and wonders causing people to believe. Paul began to teach and Sergius was astonished at his teaching of the Lord. This is just as miraculous.

D. Paul set an example we need to follow. He received a clear directive from God out of intimacy with the Lord to separate to the ministry he was called to.

1. This is similar to the parable of the sower in **Mark 4**. The word of God is seed and we are commanded to separate to it and not let the cares of this life, deceitfulness of riches, lusts of other things, choke the word. We must separate to the word of God over our lives. If you want to kill a man's vision, give him two.
2. We must also expect adversity. Satan comes for the word's sake. Paul and Barnabas had adversity with Elymas, but they used their spiritual authority.
3. Jesus illustrated this when he put his disciples in the ship after he told the parable of the sower. He said go to the other side, yet a storm came up. They thought they were going to die when the boat filled with water so they cried out to Jesus and he rebuked the storm. Jesus then rebuked them for their little faith because they didn't stand on the word, "Go to the other side."

III. Conclusion

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer