

“You Son of the Devil!”

Acts 13:4-12, ESV

Introduction: “*You son of the devil...!*” These words were spoken by Paul to a man named Elymas (aka Bar-Jesus). Admittedly, this is a harsh, direct address. What precipitated such a pointed declaration? Today’s text introduces us to a myriad of places and characters within the Acts narrative as Barnabas and Saul continue their missionary journey.

CONTEXT:

Paul and Barnabas had set out from Antioch and moved down to the port city of Seleucia (16 miles). Luke identifies several places in this text: Seleucia, Salamis, Paphos. When they arrived in Salamis, **they preached the Word of God** in the synagogues.

CHARACTERS ENCOUNTERED IN THIS TEXT:

John (v. 5), Bar-Jesus (v. 6), Sergius Paulus (v. 7), Barnabas (v. 7), Saul (v. 7), Elymas (v. 8).

IN PAPHOS:

Paul and Barnabas encounter a man identified as **Bar-Jesus (v. 6)**.

- ❖ He is a magician, a **Jew**, and a false prophet.
- ❖ He was with the proconsul, a man identified as Sergius Paulus (**v. 7**). He is a man of **intelligence** and **wanted to hear the Word of God**.
- ❖ BUT, Elymas (Bar-Jesus) opposed them, seeking to **turn the proconsul away from the faith (v. 8)**.

PAUL’S RESPONSE: (v. 9-11)

- ❖ Paul is filled with the Holy Spirit
- ❖ “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and **villainy**, you make **crooked** the straight paths of the Lord...” (v. 10).
- ❖ “The hand of the Lord is upon you, and **you will be blind** and unable to see the sun for a time.”

WHAT HAPPENED?

Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand (**v. 12**).

The **proconsul** believed. He was saved. He was astonished at the teaching of the Lord (**v. 13**).

POINTS OF APPLICATION:

1. There are times when we must confront those who seek to turn people away from the faith. It is one thing to convince people not to cheer for the Kansas City Chiefs; it is another thing altogether to turn people away from the truth of biblical Christianity. Sadly, we are seeing a time in which cultural Christianity and biblical Christianity are not the same.
2. We are to be careful and consistent in **sharing God’s Word** even in the face of opposition. The day is here when our message is going to be met with resistance. We must share anyway.
3. There is life-changing power in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sergius Paulus (the proconsul) was transformed by the teaching of the Lord. I heard the Word of God and my life was changed.