

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Paul's 1st Missionary Journey
Antioch to Perga
Acts 12:25 – 13:13

Last times...where are we and how did we get here?

The Church advanced on the gates of hell in troublesome times...preaching to the Jews

- Jerusalem
- Judea
- Samaria
- fueled by persecution by the Jews
- simmering division in the Church over the Gospel – grace vs works
“unveiled” by God Who is not a respecter of persons

Acts 10:34-36

Acts 10:44-48

Acts 11:1-4

Acts 11:17-19

Active ministry resumed for Saul of Tarsus, after 3 years of learning at the feet of Jesus in Arabia

Acts 11:22-26

Government persecution began

Acts 12:1-4

Peter

- the “central character” to this point
- Divine jail break
- showed himself to the praying Church
- sent a report to James, pastor of the Church
- went underground for a while
- after defending the Gospel of grace in Acts 15, will fade from the record of the Book of Acts

Then, in times even more troublesome,

- persecution by the Jews
- simmering division in the Church over the Gospel
- persecution by the Romans
- famine

the pastor of the Church was inspired to write a “foundational letter” to the Church...the Epistle of James

This time...moving forward, Saul of Tarsus is the “central character” in the Book of Acts...
preaching to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles

Acts 13-14...Paul’s 1st Missionary Journey
Starting point: Antioch in Syria

[map]

Overview

<u>Stop</u>	<u>End of Stop</u>
Seleucia	a boat ride
Salamis	preaching to the Jews
Paphos	demonic confrontation and fruit-bearing teaching
Perga	“abandon ship”
Antioch in Pisidia	persecution by the Jews contradicting the grace of God
Iconium	persecution by the Jews
Lystra and Derbe	Barnabas and Paul worshipped as gods, Paul stoned
backtrack	exhorting the disciples to continue in the faith

Let’s start our journey

Acts 12

v25 Barnabas and Saul...John...Mark:

When Barnabas and Saul had completed their ministry task in Jerusalem...

Acts 11:27-30...

they returned to Antioch

And they brought John Mark with them

Acts 12:12

Col 4:10

Barnabas’ nephew

Q: Were Barnabas and Saul in the prayer meeting for Peter?

I think so

Acts 13

v1 in the church that was at Antioch:

The Church at Antioch

- not a building
- a body of believers in Jesus Christ living in Antioch

certain prophets and teachers:

There were prophets and teachers in that congregation, including

- Barnabas – a Levite from Cyprus named “son of encouragement” who took Saul of Tarsus under his wing
- Simeon aka Niger – a Jew, probably from Ethiopia (Philip’s fruit?)
- Lucius – from Cyrene in northern Africa (modern day Libya),
- Manaen – foster brother of Herod Antipas, who beheaded John the Baptist
- Saul of Tarsus – the 12th apostle

v2 ministered to the Lord:

The believers at Antioch are ministering to Whom?

The Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom they believe/trust

This is the purpose of the Church – to serve Jesus

The purpose of the Body is to serve (do the will of) the Head of the Body

By serving Jesus, we can serve others

We cannot serve others if we don’t serve Jesus

Serving Self has no place in ministry/serving

As the Church ministered to Jesus, they fasted; focusing on the Spirit vs the flesh

As they were doing that, they received direction from the Lord

The Holy Ghost said:

Persons speak

Persons refer to themselves as “me” (personal pronoun)

The Holy Spirit is a Person, the 3rd Person of the triune God, Who

- helps the Body of Christ
- is our Teacher
- reminds us of the things Jesus said
- testifies of Jesus
- guides us in the Truth (John 17:17)
- makes known to us the will of the Father and the Son

Separate me...set aside for Me

Barnabas and Saul...two; Jesus sent disciples out 2x2
for the work to which I have called them...

- to do a work for the Lord, a disciple must first be called by the Holy Spirit
- disciples of Jesus are not Self-directed, they are Spirit-directed and Spirit-led
- disciples have work to do (Gen 2:15)...the Lord's work (Acts 1:1)

v3 fasted...prayed...laid hands on...sent:

Having heard the Spirit declare the will of God, they (the Church at Antioch)

1. fasted...focused all the more to "cement" what they heard
2. prayed...seeking God's face, listening intently to His small still voice directing them, wanting to be sure
3. laid hands on Barnabas and Saul...acknowledging the call of God upon them, signifying a representative/substitute
4. sent them away...by faith (Heb 11:8) against the gates of hell to build the Church (Matt 16:18)

Thus far, the Church has been witnesses of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and parts nearby (Acts 1:8)

The 1st missionary team to the uttermost parts of the earth is sent from Antioch (not Jerusalem)

Antioch became a center of evangelism of the Gospel

It is from Antioch that original manuscripts of the Scriptures were rescued from the invading Muslims during the 1st Crusade in 1097-1098

The original manuscripts were taken to Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire (Eastern Roman Empire)

The Received Text (*Textus Receptus*) is also known as the Majority Text... 99% of the known manuscripts of the Greek NT

The apostasy in Christianity during the Middle Ages led to the Reformation 503 years ago, a course correction that rallied around *Sola Scriptura*

The Reformers published the *Textus Receptus* to combat the errors in the RCC and to bring the Church back to the Scriptures (Truth)

English translations of the *Textus Receptus* include

- The Geneva Bible (*Mayflower Compact* of the Pilgrims 400 years ago)
- KJV
- Young's Literal Translation

The other manuscripts are from Alexandria, the center of Gnosticism, rooted in Simon Magnus (Acts 8) and a disciple of his named Valentinus

The Alexandrian texts (Minority Texts, 1% of known Greek manuscripts)
are the source documents for the other English translations

Differences between *Textus Receptus* and the Alexandrian texts, translated by
Wescott and Hort, center on the deity of Jesus Christ
Wescott and Hort had a heretical theology
The newer English translations use their translation of the Greek

v4-5 sent forth by the Holy Ghost...Cyprus:

Who is sending Barnabas and Saul?

The Lord

The Holy Spirit

v2

called by and sent by

Jesus Christ

John 20:21

Then said Jesus to them again, *Peace be unto you:*
as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you

Matt 28:19-20

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing
them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and
of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all
things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I
am with you always, even unto the end of the world

Barnabas and Saul go to Seleucia, on the coast of the Med Sea, then to Cyprus

[map]

John Mark went with them, as a subordinate to minister to Barnabas and Saul
According a letter written by John Mark (in *Ante-Nicene Fathers*), they stayed
there for 3 days

There, they caught a ship to Cyprus, Barnabas' homeland (Acts 4:36)

At Salamis, the missionary team does what it was sent to do – preach the Gospel
of Jesus Christ

Luke 24:44-47

1 Cor 15:3-4

The power of the Gospel is the power of God over the enemy of man (death),
the Resurrection

Notice: to whom did they go?

The Jews

v6-8 Paphos...Barjesus...Elymas:

Crossing the island of Cyprus, Barnabas and Saul and John Mark go to the capital,
Paphos

[map]

The Roman proconsul/governor/military commander is an intelligent man named
Sergius Paulus

He is aware of the presence of these 3 men in his jurisdiction and their message

He wants to hear what they have to say so he summons them

They preach the Gospel to him

But...as is always the case...there is much resistance to the Gospel of grace

In this case, it comes in the person of

- Barjesus..."son of Joshua" in Hebrew
- Elymas in Greek
- a Jewish wizard/magician and false prophet

Barjesus has a position of influence with the Roman governor and uses it to

- oppose
 - Barnabas and Saul, servants of the Living God
 - the Holy Spirit
- corrupt/pervert
 - the Truth, the Word of God, the Scriptures
 - the faith being preached (Rom 10:17)

v9 Saul...Paul...filled...set his eyes:

Regarding the 12th Apostle, here is the

- last time we read "Saul"... "anointed one" in Hebrew
- first time we read "Paul"... "little" in Greek

Paul, most importantly, is filled/baptized with the Holy Ghost,

- the power from on high to witness of Jesus Christ
- the Giver of spiritual gifts, the very best one being the one needed in the moment e.g. discern the spirits

1 John 4:1-3

Paul is not avoiding a confrontation with this antichrist

He looks intently, searchingly at him...gazing into him

v10-11a child of the devil...shall be blind:

Paul, with a shepherd's heart, speaks to the wolf named Barjesus

a. who he is in the eyes of the all-seeing God

- full of all subtilty and all mischief
 - subtilty...guile/deception, Gen 3:1
 - mischief...shameless recklessness and malice
- child of the devil...like father like son
 - a destroyer of men's souls
 - a liar and a murderer
- enemy of all righteousness...faith
 - Gen 15:6
 - Heb 11:6
 - 1 Cor 1:30

But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption

b. what he is doing before the all-knowing God

- unrelentingly perverting/subverting/corrupting/misinterpreting the right ways of the Lord
 - the way home – reconciliation and redemption (2 Cor 5:17-21)
 - repentance toward God, faith toward Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21)

c. what the Lord is going to do about that

- The hand/power of the Lord will be upon you...hand of the Judge
- You will be blind for a while (mercifully)

Paul knows something about this!

Barjesus is no friend of Sergius Paulus, he is seeking to destroy him

v11b-12 immediately...believed:

Did the Lord do what the Holy Spirit said He was going to do?

Yes!

This was NOT a magic act, it was the judgment of God

When did He do it?

Immediately

Why immediately?

- To bear witness of the words of His servants...His words
- For the benefit of Barjesus...an opportunity to repent
- For the benefit of Sergius Paulus...an opportunity to believe

There is no record in Scripture of Barjesus repenting
However, also according to a letter written by John Mark
(in *Ante-Nicene Fathers*), in a subsequent visit to Cyprus by
Barnabas and John Mark (without Paul) to minister to the people,
Barjesus violently opposed Barnabas, stirring the Jews to kill and burn
him;
Barnabas, faithful servant of God and follower of Jesus Christ,
was martyred by his own people...agitated by Barjesus

But written in the eternal Word of God is Sergius Paulus professing faith in Jesus
Christ!

The truth of the Gospel was punctuated by the Lord Himself and Sergius Paulus
believed the Word/testimony of God!

v13 Paul and his company...Perga...John departing:

It seems the baton of mission trip leadership is passed from Barnabas to Paul

Ch 12:25

Ch 13:2, 7

The mission team sets sail from Paphos to Perga

From there, the team is going to go north to Antioch in Pisidia (v14)...
but the team gets smaller

[map]

Because John Mark “abandons ship” in Perga

In his letter (in *Ante-Nicene Fathers*), John Mark writes that he wanted to
go further west

So he stayed in Perga while Paul and Barnabas went to Antioch in
Pisidia...as they were directed by the Holy Spirit

John Mark, on the other hand, was self-directed

But...“The Holy Spirit did not allow me” to go further west

So, stopped by the Holy Spirit from doing his own will, John Mark
returned to Jerusalem

Later, when he heard Paul and Barnabas had returned to Antioch
(in Syria), he went to them

Acts 15:35-40 follows

But that is not the “end of the story for John Mark

2 Tim 4:11

Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to
me for the ministry

1 Peter 5:13

Marcus my son

Gospel of Mark

Peter’s Gospel

Application/Lessons

1. v3....Antioch, the early Church's center of evangelism, from which we get *Textus Receptus*, used by God to break the stranglehold of RCC on Christianity

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

NKJV, NIV, NASB....same message?

It matters what Bible you **study**!

Do your own study

Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in the Truth and to teach you

2. v9..."filled with the Holy Ghost"

An essential element in our spiritual walk and in spiritual warfare,
in which we are involved

2 Tim 2:3-4 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life;
that he
may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Eph 6:10-18 principalities and powers, spiritual wickedness in high places
2 Cor 10:3-5

Don't even attempt to battle demons without being filled with the Holy Spirit!
But fear not to enter the battle, because 1 John 4:4

3. v13...Spirit-directed

The Holy Spirit empowers and directs the Church (the organism, not the organization)
to do the will of God

The Church is a Body of people...not a commercial enterprise/brand or an empire of man
Every part of the Body is called to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Body

What is your God-given work to do?

What is the calling of the Holy Spirit upon your life?

Be faithful to your calling

And beware of a plague in Christianity, even from the earliest days

Gal 3:3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made
perfect by the flesh?

Be faithful to your calling...being filled/baptized with the Holy Ghost!

4. v13...John Mark

Continue

John 8:31-32

1 John 2:15-19

If you fall...

If you lapse into Self-direction (pride or lust, our natural inclination)...

If you stop following the leading of the Holy Spirit, God's supernatural inclination...

Repent!

Get up!

Get back on track!

Get moving again!

The Lord is not done with you yet!!!

Be encouraged, don't allow the devil to discourage you!!

Come on! We are here to help you!

Heb 10:24-25

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.