



Most of us have influence in someone's life. Whether it's a child, a teenager, or another adult - like it or not - we ARE leaving a legacy that outlives us. Today we answer one question that clarifies whether our influence will make an eternal impact or not.

☛ *"Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them."*

Catch the Context: Paul & Barnabas traveled to the island of Cyprus where they confronted a magician who tried to keep them from sharing the Gospel. Ultimately, God blinded the magician and the governor - Sergius Paulus - believed the teaching about Jesus (Acts 13:1-12).

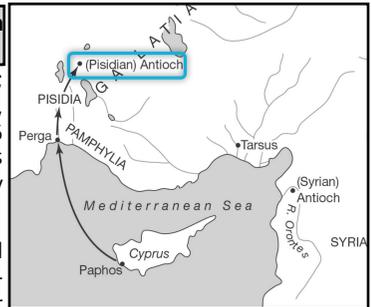
Acts 13:13 (NET) ¹³ Then Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Although Luke gives no details here, he later notes how John Mark's early departure impacted and even split the team of Paul & Barnabas (Acts 15:36-39). For some unknown reason John Mark makes his way back to Jerusalem where he originally followed Paul & Barnabas from (Acts 12:25).

Acts 13:14a (NET) ¹⁴ Moving on from Perga, they arrived at **Pisidian Antioch**.

This journey was about 125 miles across the Taurus mountain range; known for being barren, often flooded by swollen mountain streams, and was notorious for thieves.¹ It would have likely taken at least 6 days travel² and ended with a climb to 3,600 ft. above sea level.³ (This is one of sixteen cities called "Antioch" named after the Antiochus by his son.)

So why go to **Pisidian Antioch**? Sergius Paulus (Acts 13:7, 12) had family connections in the region and might have directed the missionaries to the area where his family had land & influence.⁴ The governor no doubt desired that his family & those around them heard the gospel of Jesus as well. Plus, Pisidian Antioch had had a large Jewish population, whom Paul & Barnabas wanted to tell about Jesus, the Jewish Messiah.



Do YOU have that king of concern for YOUR family and friends, wanting them to hear the gospel of Jesus? Are you PRAYING for them? Are you willing to GO to them?

BIG QUESTION: Do our Kids (and others we influence) see our Concern for other Souls?

Acts 13:14b-16 (NET) and on the Sabbath day they went into the **synagogue** and sat down.

¹⁵ After the reading from the law and the prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any message of exhortation for the people, speak it."¹⁶ So Paul stood up, gestured with his hand and said, "Men of Israel, and you Gentiles who fear God, listen:

Synagogues for the dispersed Jews outside of Israel were much more than places to worship, they were the hubs of the Jewish community— a center of education, judicial center, social gathering place, general

¹ John B. Polhill, Acts, vol. 26, *The New American Commentary* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 297.

² Craig S. Keener, *Acts: An Exegetical Commentary & 2: Introduction and 1:1-14:28, vol. 1* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012-2013), 2035.

³ Ben Witherington III, *The Acts of the Apostles: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1998), 405.

⁴ Witherington, 403-404.

“civic center” for the Jewish community.⁵ This was the perfect place to make contact with the Jewish community. In the Jewish synagogue the Scriptures would be read (the same Scriptures that we call the Old Testament/covenant). They are in different order than our 39 Old Testament writings and combine many writings for a total of 24.

The term for these collection of writings is called the **Tanakh** (tah´ nahk). It is divided into three main sections. The word “**TaNaKh**” is formed from an acronym for the three constituent parts: **T**(orah) + **N**(evi’im) + **K**(etuvim).⁶

- 1) The **Torah** (often called “the law,” though “instruction” or “teaching” would be a better translation) = Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.
- 2) The **Nevi’im** (Prophets) = Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the Book of the Twelve (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi).
- 3) The **Ketuvim** (Writings) = Psalms, Job, Proverbs, Ruth, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Esther, Daniel, Ezra–Nehemiah, and Chronicles. * The Tanakh is equivalent in content to the Christian OT, but the order of the books is different.

After the reading from **the law** and **the prophets** (Torah & Nevi’im), the synagogue rulers called on Paul & Barnabas to speak.

- Paul & Barnabas could have been there several days, housed by other Jews who got to know them.
- Maybe they heard of Paul’s rabbinical training under Gamaliel in Jerusalem.
- Maybe they found out that Barnabas was a Levite (4:36), the priestly tribe.
- These 2 Jewish men who had come all the way from the Holy Land would be recognized and respected as men worthy to share a message. So Paul begins to share.

Acts 13:17–21 (NET) ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay as foreigners in the country of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸ For a period of about forty years **he put up with them in the wilderness.** ¹⁹ After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, **he gave his people their land** as an inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about four hundred fifty years. After this he gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years.

Paul is doing a historical summary of how God had long protected & directed the Jewish people, despite their disobedience, to welcome the long expected Messiah. Paul points to God leading them out of Egypt, how **he put up with them** for 40 years, despite their disobedience & ungratefulness (e.g. golden calf & complaining about their daily menu). **He gave his people their land**, the land He had promised to Abraham, even driving out their pagan enemies.

Despite God’s desire to be the only recognized KING of His people, He even allowed them to have a king, Saul, of Benjamin’s tribe - the same name & tribe Paul inherited (see Ph. 3:5; “Paul” is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew “Saul”). Despite Saul’s disobedience, God was still faithful to complete the work He started through Abraham.

Acts 13:22–24 (NET) ²² After removing him, God raised up **David** their king. He testified about him: *‘I have found David the son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who will accomplish everything I want him to do.’*²³ **From the descendants of this man** God brought to Israel a **Savior, Jesus**, just as he promised. ²⁴ **Before Jesus arrived, John had proclaimed a baptism for repentance to all the people of Israel.**

Every Jew knew that the Messiah would come through the family tree of King **David**. And now Paul drops the bombshell - that Israel’s **Savior, Jesus** has come!

⁵ Polhill, 297.

⁶ Mark Allan Powell, “Tanakh,” ed. Mark Allan Powell, *The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary* (Revised and Updated) (New York: HarperCollins, 2011), 1010.

Baptism by another was very strange for Jews. While Jews would participate in ceremonial washings by dipping themselves under the water, only proselytes to the Jewish faith were baptized by another. John's baptism of for **the people of Israel** demonstrated that Jews recognized their need for another to bring them into right relationship with God. Of course, John was simply the mediator, but not the Messiah.

Acts 13:25 (NET) ²⁵ But while John was completing his mission, he said repeatedly, 'What do you think I am? I am not he. But look, one is coming after me. I am not worthy to untie the sandals on his feet!'

The household servant would wash the master's feet, carry & **untie the sandals on his feet.**⁷

The Hebrew Bible and later tradition regularly called the Israelite prophets "servants of God," (including David, Moses, the patriarchs, and Israel as a whole), yet John thinks he is unworthy to even be considered a servant of the **one** coming after him.⁸ This speaks to John's humility & Jesus' holiness! Jesus was not one of many prophets, priests, or kings, but the one whom the baptist called "*the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*" (Jn. 1:29)

Jesus also called John the Baptist the greatest man to ever live (Luke 7:28).

Question: If this great man was THIS humble in the presence of Jesus' holiness, should this cause us pause when we or somehow conclude that Jesus needs us or we deserve Him?

☀ **NT Wright** notes: "*Paul is setting up a system of signposts, from David a thousand years before to John a mere 15 or so years earlier. And all the signposts point to one person: Jesus the Messiah, the Rescuer.*"⁹

Acts 13:26 (NET) ²⁶ Brothers, descendants of Abraham's family, and those Gentiles among you who fear God, **the message of this salvation has been sent to us.**

Since we know the rest of the story, it's easy for us to discount the shocking response that Paul mentions next. Remember, many of the folks Paul is talking to are likely hearing the gospel of Jesus for the very first time.

Acts 13:27-39 (NET) ²⁷ For the people who live in Jerusalem and their rulers **did not recognize him**, and they fulfilled the sayings of the prophets that are read every Sabbath by **condemning him.**²⁸ Though they found no basis for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to **have him executed.** ²⁹ When they had accomplished everything that was **written about him**, they took him down from the cross and **placed him in a tomb.** ³⁰ But **God raised him from the dead,** ³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who had accompanied him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses to the people. ³² And we proclaim to you the good news about the promise to our ancestors,³³ that this promise God has fulfilled to us, their children, by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second psalm, '*You are my Son; today I have fathered you.*'³⁴ But regarding the fact that he has raised Jesus from the dead, never again to be in a state of decay, God has spoken in this way: '*I will give you the holy and trustworthy promises made to David.*'³⁵ Therefore he also says in another psalm, '*You will not permit your Holy One to experience decay.*' [quotation from Ps 16:10] ³⁶ For David, after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, died, was buried with his ancestors, and experienced decay, ³⁷ but **the one whom God raised up** did not experience decay. ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that **through this one forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you,** ³⁹ and by this one **everyone who believes is justified** from everything from which the law of Moses could not justify you.

This is the good news! This is why Paul and Barnabas have traveled so far to share, because of their deep concern for other souls. While not every follower of Jesus is called to go to an unreached people group, every follower of Jesus is commanded to be concerned for other souls.

Big question: do our kids (or those we influence) see our concern for other souls?

Who are you praying for; who are you serving; who are you sharing with or preparing to share with?

Note: Be prepared for this message to take some time to take root.

⁷ Craig S. Keener, Acts: An Exegetical Commentary & 2: Introduction and 1:1-14:28, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2012-2013), 2064.

⁸ Keener, 2065.

⁹ Tom Wright, Acts for Everyone, Part 2: Chapters 13-28 (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2008), 12.

Acts 13:40-43 (NET) ⁴⁰ Watch out, then, that what is spoken about by the prophets does not happen to you: ⁴¹ 'Look, you scoffers; be amazed and perish! For I am doing a work in your days, a work you would never believe, even if someone tells you.' " ⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people were urging them to speak about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking with them and were persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

At the beginning of today's teaching we said that, **Like it or not, we ARE leaving a legacy that outlives us.** The only question is, is that a GOOD thing? And today we need to answer the one question that clarifies whether our influence will make an eternal impact or not.

Big question: do our kids (or those we influence) see our concern for other souls?

FEET2FAITH

1. **Pray for Others.** Tell your kids (or those you influence) who you are praying for...or do it together? Ask who THEY are praying for.
2. **Prepare to Share.** Don't wing it. Start preparing (GOD, MAN, SIN, JESUS, JUDGMENT; share your faith story - what He has done/is doing in your life)
3. **Plan to Meet.** Quit putting it off. Put it on the calendar as you pray & prepare.
4. **Persuade & Be Patient.** Be skillful. Be gentle. Be truthful. *"Always build toward having another conversation."* Then TELL your family or those you influence about sharing with others.

Please call us if we can answer any questions or help you in any way.

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