

LESSONS THIS QUARTER {1}

1)	01 Sep 2024	Acts 13a	Sent
2)	08 Sep	Acts 13b	The Task
3)	15 Sep	Acts 14	The Truth
4)	22 Sep	Acts 15a	The Gospel
5)	29 Sep	Acts 15b	Kingdom Work
6)	06 Oct	Acts 16	Every Opportunity
7)	13 Oct	Acts 17	Believe
8)	20 Oct	Acts 18	Together
9)	27 Oct	Acts 19	Motives
10)	03 Nov	Acts 20-21	Commit
11)	10 Nov	Acts 22-25	Witness
12)	17 Nov	Acts 26-27	Respond
13)	24 Nov	Acts 28	Trust

INTRODUCTION

- Acts 13 records the 1st Missionary Journey by Paul and Barnabas
- We see how these early church leaders witnessed to enthusiastic and antagonistic crowds effectively
- In previous chapters in Acts Paul spoke in the following manner:
 - Paul IMMEDIATELY PROCLAIMED Jesus ACTS 9:20
 - Paul SPOKE AND CONFOUNDED the Jews 9:22
 - Paul SPOKE OUT BOLDLY in the name of Jesus 9:27-28
 - Paul TALKED AND ARGUED with the Jews 9:29
 - Paul & Barnabas TAUGHT large numbers 11:26
- Here in Chapter 13, we see Paul & Barnabas speaking this way:
 - They PROCLAIMED God's word to the Jews 13:5, 15
 - They SPOKE & URGED believers 13:43
 - They SPOKE OUT BOLDLY 13:46
- ...and the results of their unashamedly bold witness:
 - The whole city assembled to hear 13:33
 - Many, as had been appointed, received eternal life 13:48
 - Disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Spirit 13:52
 - People begged to hear more next Sabbath 13:42
 - A great multitude believed 14:01
- Paul & Barnabas are noted to have accomplished much for the kingdom of God, not for their praying (though, assuredly, they prayed frequently & fervently), and not for reading their Bible (though, they were quite familiar with the OT), and not by having a quiet demeanor, but by intentional and bold speaking to everyone.
- What will it take for us to be intentional and bold witnesses? More Prayer More Study | More Guilt | More Guts | More Cash | More TV

Passage	Comments
Acts 13:1-3	<p>The Holy Spirit Speaks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Five men are noted for being prophets & teachers. Luke mentions Barnabas 1st and Saul/Paul 5th, probably because Barnabas was the most prominent at that time. In Chapter 14, we will see Barnabas & Paul (name is changed) being called apostles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What kind of title(s) do people know us by? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What's the diff between prophet, teacher, & apostle? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prophet (at that time) – Foreteller & Forth-teller ▪ Teacher – Elders were “apt to teach” .. 2Tim 2:24 ▪ Apostle (little “a”) – Missionary (sent one) ▪ The 12 Apostles – Jesus' hand-picked leaders (Paul, not Mathias, replaced Judas as the 12th) • vv2-3. While “THEY” were ministering, the Holy Spirit said to them to set apart Barnabas and Saul. Note that Barnabas is mentioned once again before Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ BUT who were THEY that the Holy Spirit talked to? Per verse 1, THEY were the prophets & teachers (Barnabas, Paul, Simeon or Niger, Lucius, and Manaen), and not the deacons or the whole church. ♦ Now, how did the Holy Spirit objectively convey His specific will to them? <input type="checkbox"/> Verbally? <input type="checkbox"/> Mentally? <input type="checkbox"/> One at a time? <input type="checkbox"/> All at once? <input type="checkbox"/> Other means?

Passage	Comments
How Does God Convey His Specific Will to His Church and to His People TODAY?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In brief, God works provisionally. He is not limited as He guides our steps through our pain and blessings, by opening & closing doors of opportunities, & thru our finances, work, health, relationships, & other venues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We prove God's will (Rom 12:2) by discerning how He is provisionally working in our lives; otherwise, we would be operating by facts instead of by faith • Based on the whole counsel of God, we have to admit God is working differently TODAY then during 1st Cent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We no longer have Apostles on the order of Peter's and Paul's, otherwise the Word of God can still grow ♦ Even before the Apostles died off, spiritual gifts and supernatural miracles stopped. By the time the book of Hebrews was written the Gifts of the Spirit and supernatural miracles and wonders were noted to be in past (aorist) tense Heb 2:3-4 • TODAY, God speaks to us through His Word [Heb 1:1-2] and through wise counsel from those who know God and His word [Col 1:9; James 3:17]; and through our conscience, which bears us witness [Rom 2:15], if it is a righteous conscience & not a weak (1Cor 8:12), defiled (Titus 1:15), evil (Heb 10:22), shipwrecked (1Tim 1:19), or a seared conscience (1Tim 4:2).
13:4-12	<p>Paul Performs an Unhealing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. Paul was filled with the Spirit before he took action against Bar-Jesus, a Jewish false prophet & magician. • vv11-12. Paul performed an unhealing (made Bar-Jesus, a non-believer, blind for a time) & the proconsul believed & was “amazed” at the teaching of the Lord <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What is amazing or astonishing about God's word that believers and non-believers make note of it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The simplicity of it? <input type="checkbox"/> The complexity of it? <input type="checkbox"/> The logic of it? <input type="checkbox"/> The truthfulness of it? <input type="checkbox"/> Other? ♦ Should we curse our opponents with misfortunes as Paul did? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King David did at times Ps 59:13 vs 35:13-14 • David even prayed for his opponents to become “blind as bats” Ps 69:23 (MSG) • Job did not pray for harm to come to his enemies, but he also wouldn't give them a job .. Job 30:1; 31:30 • We apparently have the biblical right to curse our enemies, but, like Paul, be sure to be first filled with the Holy Spirit to properly discern the situation, and remove any beam from our own eye before we challenge the sins of others Mat 7:5
Other passages on God's Amazing Word and Feats in Acts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acts 2:7 Unbelievers were amazed and astonished at hearing their mother tongues being spoken Acts 3:10 Unbelievers were filled with wonder and amazement at the crippled man being healed Acts 4:13 Rulers, elders, & scribes were amazed at Peter & John who being uneducated could draw such large crowds to hear a message Acts 5:24 Priests & Guards were perplexed how Apostles got out of jail Acts 8:13 Simon the Magician was constantly amazed at all the miracles Acts 9:21 People were amazed at Paul's conversion Acts 10:45 Jews were amazed at Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit Acts 12:16 Believers were amazed at Peter's release from prison Acts 13:12 The Proconsul was amazed at the Gospel, and he believed



“We need someone to get run over by a car so we can all exercise our gifts.”

Passage	Comments
13:13	<p>Mark Deserts the Ship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Mark possibly got spooked by running into Bar-Jesus, the magician; or he got bummed by being the errand boy and luggage carrier for Barnabas & Paul; or, since he possibly was a "spoiled rich kid" he just got tired roughing it and got homesick – so, he left unexpectedly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall that Mark's home was big enough to host large gatherings of Christians, so his parents were probably quite wealthy Acts 12:12 His immaturity at this junction left some bitterness for quite some time, especially with Paul Acts 15:37-39 Fortunately, John Mark eventually grew up and became a trusted partner to both Peter and Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter called him "my son" 1Peter 5:13 Paul conveyed Mark was "useful" to him... 2Tim 4:11 Mark's biggest claim to fame, however, was that he wrote the first Gospel account of Jesus (possibly gleaned from sitting under Peter's tutelage) <p>Lessons to be Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mistakes in life do not need to hamper our "mark" in life, or "mark" us as failures if, like Peter & Mark, we grow up and "forget" what lies behind us and press forward to what better things lie ahead Phil 3:13 Before throwing young people (in age or in spiritual maturity) into a tough ministry they should first be proven or tested to some degree 1Tim 3:10 (How can we prove someone's mettle?)
13:14-41	<p>Paul Gives a History Lesson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v14. On the Sabbath Day Paul & Barnabas went into the Synagogue, not to quarrel, but to share the Gospel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is it appropriate for us to go to other houses of worship to share the Gospel? E.g., Hindus, Mormons, Muslims, JW's, Catholics, etc.? Would this be respectful or not? Or would it be more appropriate for a saved Catholic to witness to other Catholics within their sanctum? v26. Paul says the Gospel message was sent to those who fear God, to those of Abraham's family, and to the "brethren" or other Jewish believers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calvinists jump on this passage and say, "See, the Gospel is only for the elect." True, the Gospel saves the elect, but as Jesus said to the non-elect Jews of his day, "I am willing to give you eternal life (IOW, change you from non-elect to Elect) if only you were willing to come to me" (John 5:34, 40). So, the Gospel was and is available to ALL, but it is only "efficacious" for the Elect – those who willingly choose to believe. <p>Principle of Considering the Whole Counsel of God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke also records in Acts 5:31 that our Savior's purpose was to "grant repentance to Israel" – BUT we know from the whole counsel of God that His repentance is also for us Gentiles. So, Paul's seemingly restrictive statement in vs26 that the Gospel was only meant for some, is not as restrictive as Calvinists make it out to be. vv38-39. Through Christ, forgiveness is available to EVERYONE who believes, and this forgiveness frees believers from all things (sin) that would bind them <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should a murderer be allowed to go free after getting saved? Should an adulterer who fathered children out of wedlock be freed from paying child support? Rhetorical answer to such questions is NO. So, is this freedom more intangible or spiritual in nature? If that is all it is, actually, that would be sufficient enough BUT there are tangible, physical, earthly impacts to receiving God's forgiveness. Feelings of remorse and regret may be present, but we are free from eternal guilt, which brings health to the body & mind Ps 38:3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Former thieves, addicts, liars, gluttons, etc., can testify of being freed to enjoy new things as they replaced sinful habits with godly ones Eph 4:28

GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Our faith, our speech, our attitude should be more Christlike over time as we trod this side of eternity

- According to Scripture, we should spiritually get better and better over time, individually and corporately, constantly bearing fruit & growing (Col 1:6):
 - The righteous grow "stronger and stronger" (Job 17:9);
 - ...and go from "strength to strength" (Ps 84:7);
 - We also get "brighter and brighter" (Pro 4:18)
 - And we receive "grace upon grace" (John 1:16).
 - God reveals His righteousness from "faith to faith" (Rom 1:17);
 - For we are transformed from "glory to glory" (2Cor 3:18);
 - "Hoping against hope" (Rom 4:18);
 - ...and renewed "day by day" (2Cor 4:16).
- In brief, the path of life spirals upward for the wise (Pro 15:24),
- ...and from this continuous improvement we should praise God "more and more" (Ps 71:14) as we pursue God's upward call in Christ Jesus (Php 3:14), evermore increasing in the knowledge of God (Col 1:10).
- Apostle Paul prayed for the Thessalonians for them to **abound more and more in pleasing God and in brotherly love** (1Thes 4:1, 9-10); and when he wrote them later, he noticed their faith did grow more & more and their love for each other continually increased (2Thes 1:3).

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS / CONSIDERATIONS

- Are we willing and able to share the Gospel to friends and strangers, co-workers and family on a moment's notice?
- Let's yearn to be like Paul and Barnabas and not only have the facts of the Gospel but the motivating love for God and for people to lovingly share with boldness.

NEXT WEEK: Acts 13:42-52. What resonated with the listeners of Paul and Barnabas where their listeners "begged" to hear more from them the next Sabbath? Was it ... Funny Jokes? Interesting Statistics? Great Application? Unvarnished Truth? Illuminating Knowledge?

