

The Book of Acts

GROUP CURRICULUM

SERMON THE HOLY SPIRIT ON MISSION (ACTS 13: 1-12)

DATE MARCH 8, 2020

¹Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. ⁶When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. ⁷He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? ¹¹And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. ¹²Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

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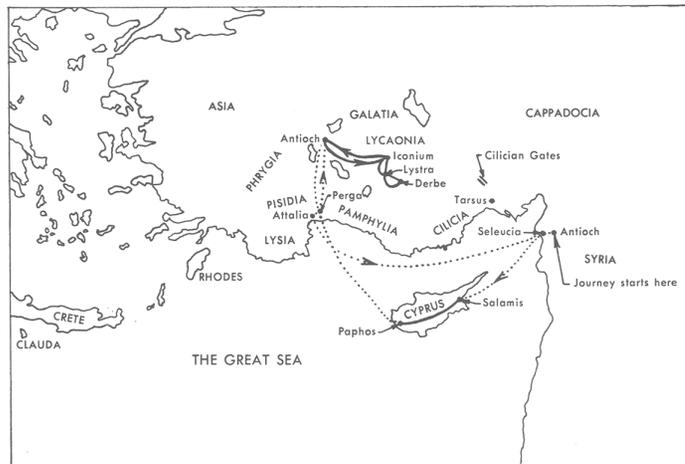
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1. Take some time to familiarize yourself with the map below detailing Paul and Barnabas' journey and highlight some of the places listed in the passage.



2. What was the early church's plan to engage the Holy Spirit's leading? What does this look like in your life today?
3. Fill in the blanks in the phrases below to complete a key truth from this week's message:

Mission is grounded in a church filled with _____.

Before the plan is _____

Before the walk is _____

Before the action is _____

4. Explain the phrase: "Missions is fueled by worship."
5. How would you define the word, "sent"? How is it different than the word, "go"?
6. In the passage above, circle every time you see mention of the "Holy Spirit." In the space below summarize what He is doing in every instance.
7. Do you currently feel like the Holy Spirit has sent you into opposition? Is he sending you somewhere, and you are struggling to obey his call?
8. Do you remember about how many years passes between Paul's conversion, and activity into ministry on this first missionary journey? Why do you think the Lord uses time in so many of our lives, before he chooses to change our directions or fulfill his plans for us?
9. Note that verse Acts 13:6 calls the man Bar-Jesus, which means "son of Jesus." In verse 8, Luke calls him by his translated name, Elymas. In verse 10, what does Paul call him? Why do you think Paul responds with such harsh sounding words?
10. Consider again Paul's charge to Elymas in Acts 13:10: "Stop making crooked, the straight paths of the Lord." As Pastor Robbie observed, so much is good being called evil, and evil being called good. Talk about some examples. How are you personally working to stop this kind of thinking in your life?
11. Do you know anyone like the Proconsul – someone who is open to the gospel and seeking to learn more? How can you help them? Do you know anyone like Elymas – someone who openly opposes the gospel, or who tries to interfere with your sharing the gospel? How can you pray for both?