

# ACTS

## Chapter 13

### Note from Kathy

This chapter speaks to the joys and the disappointments of sharing the gospel. There will be those who thank you for caring and embrace salvation, and there will be those who stand in opposition and go to great lengths to keep others from the truth. How we handle both says a lot about our faith and knowledge of God. Let's take our cue from Paul and Barnabas, "they were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."



### Observation

#### Acts 13:1-2

"Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

#### Acts 13:5

"When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper."

1. In Acts 13:1 we see a list of prophets and teachers who were in Antioch at that time. List them below.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
2. What were these five leaders doing?
3. The Lord separated Barnabas and Saul out for a work in another area. On the above map, highlight the cities mentioned as they traveled on this missionary journey.
4. According to Acts 13:5, who was also traveling with them on this journey? We will talk more about this man soon. What is he doing?

9 **Mark 13:6-8**

*“They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus,<sup>7</sup> who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.<sup>8</sup> But Elymas the sorderer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.”*

▣ **Acts 13:14-15**

*“From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down.<sup>15</sup> After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, ‘Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak.’”*

9 **Acts 13:42**

*“As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath.”*

5. Fill in the blanks with the names of these two men from verses 6-8.

Proconsul \_\_\_\_\_ (the Roman empire was divided into provinces that were ruled by these governors) What facts did you learn about this proconsul?

Proconsul’s attendant \_\_\_\_\_. What facts did you learn about this attendant?

6. Sergius Paulus was the man in charge of this province. Scripture tells us he sent for Paul and Barnabas to hear what they were teaching. Elymas, the sorcerer opposed them. Briefly state the events of Acts 13:8-12.

7. After arriving in Perga what did John do?

8. Paul and Barnabas traveled on to a city named Antioch. It was not Antioch in Syria—it was Antioch in the region of Pisidia. Look at the map and locate this city. Where did they go while in this city, and what were they invited to do?

9. In verses 16-41 Paul gives a summarized history lesson. Briefly list the main points. Depending on how you summarize, you may have a few more or less than I did. The important thing is that we get familiar with the history of Israel. I will start you off:

God’s chosen people Israel prospered in Egypt

After suffering under Egyptian bondage God delivered them by His mighty power

10. Just as Paul and Barnabas were about to leave the synagogue, what did the people invite them to do?

**9 Acts 13:43-45**

*“When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God. 44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.”*

**10 Acts 13:46-47**

*“Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: ‘We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. 47 For this is what the Lord has commanded us: I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”*

11. After hearing Paul teach that day, what was the response of the Jews and the devout converts to Judaism?
12. The next week the crowd was even larger. Don't forget these men are not in Israel preaching; they are in a predominantly Gentile city. Who was bothered by their words and who was overjoyed?

To what extent did they oppose Paul and Barnabas?

13. The jealousy of the Jews outweighed their desire to hear Paul and Barnabas. These Jewish men began to contradict their teaching. Paul and Barnabas' message was Christ crucified, risen and ascended. Since they are teaching that forgiveness and salvation come through Jesus, who are these Jewish men really opposing? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Read Acts 13:46-47 again, what had the opposition of these Jewish men cost them?
15. After having their teaching rejected by the Jews, what was the response of the disciples as they continued on to another area?

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## Application

1. All churches and ministries need to have strong, godly leaders. The church at Antioch was no exception. But our God is really into division as a source of multiplication. All too often we love our leaders and are unwilling to rejoice when God calls them to another area. Have you ever had a pastor or teacher that you loved being under only to have God call them to a new area of ministry? Knowing our God is sovereign and will supply all our needs, what should our response be when He calls a beloved leader to a new mission field?
2. Did you notice anything odd about the counselor that the proconsul Sergius Paulus had chosen? Who do you seek advice from?
3. Paul was a visitor in this area. He was a guest of the proconsul. I'm sure he considered this a wonderful opportunity to share Jesus with this leader who had expressed an interest in the gospel. But Elymas the sorcerer did not want this to happen. Paul called him out and by the power of God, asked God to strike him blind. It is a dangerous thing to

try to keep someone from salvation. Have you ever known someone who, for whatever reason, did not want a friend or loved one to be saved? What did they do to hinder them from accepting Christ? (Let's not reveal names—just look at the steps taken to hinder.)

4. Paul, Barnabas and John left Cyprus and sailed to Perga in Pamphylia. Sadly, what happened in verse 13?

We are not told the details, but I am sure it caused things to be much more difficult for Paul and Barnabas. Now they must take care of things that previously this traveling companion and helper had handled. Have you ever felt abandoned by a co-worker or family member? For whatever reason, they felt the need to leave. How did their leaving make you feel? What helped you continue?

5. We must be very careful in our criticism and opposition of anyone sharing God's word. That does not mean we are not to be discerning. There are those who season their teaching with scripture, and yet, they twist God's intended meaning. If you are a child of God, you have His Spirit living in you. How do you discern who is a teacher worthy of your time or one you need to avoid?
6. Opposition is never fun to experience, especially in ministry, but it is to be expected. The important thing is how we respond to opposition. The disciples left Antioch filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. There are all kinds of opposition that we may face. What we are talking about here is opposition for the gospel's sake. How do you handle opposition for the faith?

If you never experience any opposition you may not be vocal enough about your faith in Christ. Believers should be filled with grace, mercy and understanding for the lost around us. Our love for the lost should compel us to share the gospel. How will you share your gift this week?

Why not start by simply inviting someone to church?