

Acts 13 – Paul and Barnabas begin their first journey

I. Saul and Barnabas are separated to the purpose of teaching the Gentiles – 13:1-5

- A. The Spirit expressly commanded that Barnabas and Saul be set to this purpose
 - 1. The Spirit must have spoken to one of the saints or elders, perhaps one of the saints with a miraculous gift
- B. The saints (elders?) fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, committing them to the task of the Lord
- C. Saul, Barnabas, and John Mark begin by leaving Antioch and going down to Seleucia, and then to Cyprus. They preached in the synagogue at Salamis.

II. Saul and Barnabas at Paphos – 13:6-12

- A. Encountered a man named Bar-Jesus (Elymas)
 - 1. Sorcerer
 - 2. False Prophet
 - 3. Jew
- B. Elymas withstands Saul (Paul) and Barnabas in an effort to keep the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man, from believing the truth
 - 1. Sergius Paulus desired to hear the word of God
- C. After some words, Paul, by the power of God, strikes Elymas with blindness
 - 1. After this the proconsul believed, being astonished at the teaching

III. Paul and Barnabas at Antioch of Pisidia – 13:13-52

- A. Paul and Barnabas leave Paphos and go to Perga (Pamphylia)
 - 1. John Mark departs for Jerusalem
- B. Paul and Barnabas continue on to Antioch of Pisidia and enter a synagogue there
 - 1. They are invited to speak to the people
- C. Paul's sermon to the Jews and Gentiles, 13:16-41
- D. The Gentiles asked Paul and Barnabas to stay and speak at the next Sabbath, for which the whole city came out to hear
 - 1. The Jews were filled with envy and blasphemed
 - 2. *"It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles."*
 - 3. Many of the Gentiles believed
- E. The Jews stirred up persecution, and expelled Paul and Barnabas from their region
 - 1. They *"shook off the dust from their feet against them"* and continued to Iconium

Questions for Acts 13:

1. The Spirit came to Barnabas and Saul and told them that they needed to separate themselves for the work that had been prepared for them. (T) (F)
2. Why is it important for us to know that Sergius Paulus was an “intelligent man”?
3. Is there any parallel at all with regard to Elymas being struck blind and Paul’s own experiences some years earlier? If so, what parallel? If not, why was Elymas struck blind?
4. Why did the rulers of the synagogue invite Paul and Barnabas to address the crowd at Antioch of Pisidia?
5. What does it mean when Paul and Barnabas “*shook off the dust from their feet against them*”?