

Acts Part 24

Acts 13:1-12

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

- 1-12 chapters of Acts focused on Peter.

(Growth of church in Jerusalem and Judea)

- 13-28 chapters focused on Paul begins in Antioch.

(mission work outward)

- What's the difference between prophets and teachers?

Working Definitions:

1) **Prophet**: prophetes, a foreteller by extension, an inspired speaker

- Evangelistic gifting
- A foreteller of Godly precepts
- What does the word say?
- OT/NT, heard directly from God, gave it straight to the people
- Present day, hear directly from word of God, give it straight to those we are in contact with. No variance

2) **Teacher**: didaskalos, an instructor, one ABLE (fitted) to teach

- Instruction gifting
- Discipleship process
- Building block teaching (we obey, what we obey, why we obey)
- The word says, therefore we respond this way...
- OT/NT, heard and studied scripture, taught those who would listen, Priscilla and Aquilla, Paul, Peter, Jesus
- Present day, we study and apply, we teach from what we have learned in scripture and what we have experienced
- Daily discipleship

Who were these men? (Barnabas 4:36-37)

1. Barnabas (4:36-37)

Acts 4:36-37

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus by birth, the one the apostles called Barnabas (which is translated Son of Encouragement), 37 sold a field he owned, brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

2. Simon (potentially also from Cyrene)

- More than likely an African. We have already seen that Jesus has torn down all of the walls of segregation and this new body coming out of Antioch is full of all kinds of ethnicity and demographic.

Mark 15:21

They forced a man coming in from the country, who was passing by, to carry Jesus's cross. He was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

- No direct evidence positive or negative to confirm

3. Lucius of Cyrene

- Potentially another African (Cyrene is modern day Libya)

4. Manaen

- Raised in the house of Herod Antipas: Married his sister in law, beheaded John the Baptist, horrible, evil man. That Herod.
- So what had he been like? What options had he been given? What happened?

5. Saul (From this chapter on, called Paul)

- Ex-Pharisee, super educated, very wealthy, probably came from a great family that disowned him

Two African dudes, Two privileged Roman citizens, one blue collar jewish dude. That's the leadership team.

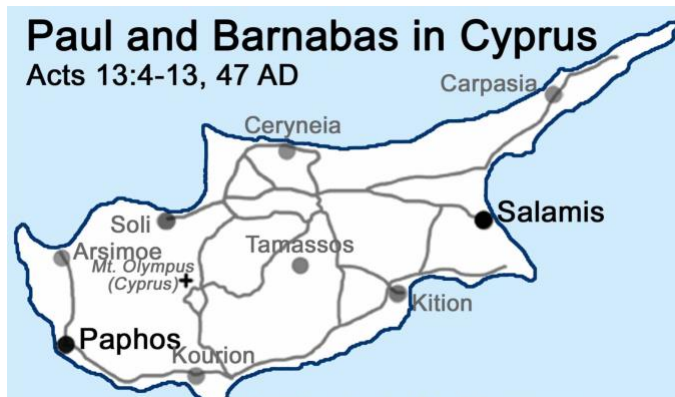
2 As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.

- Antioch was not worshipping and fasting in preparation for something specific (scripture does not show us this) THIS WAS A WAY OF LIFE FOR THEM. As they sought after the Lord, the Lord spoke.
- The church as we know it began in Jerusalem. Great things happened there. Hard things happened there. Leaders were sent and scattered all across the region
- Antioch exploded. It had great teachers and leaders, and the people came from all over. And...the Lord sent many of the leaders... out.
- Why? Because the church grows out, not in.
- Privileged Roman citizen and the blue collar guy are called to leave
- The two africans and the other privileged jewish Roman citizen are called to stay and lead the church. Raise up more leaders.
- This should have been the other way around..This was a JEWISH church, jewish leaders should stay. Missions were for FOREIGNERS, therefore foreigners should go. God’s plan is completely different than our plan, amen?

The Mission to Cyprus

4 So being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 Arriving in Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John as their assistant.

- Saul and Barnabas, along with John as their helper set out
- They proclaimed the Gospel first to the Jews



6 When they had traveled the whole island as far as Paphos, they came across a sorcerer, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. 7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God.

- Island may have had a 20-50k population. Today it's 1.2 million
- Paphos was known for black magic, and also one of the birthplaces of worship of Aphrodite and Adonis (greek gods of sex/love)
- Sergius Paulus had heard of Paul and Barnabas and wanted to meet with them

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (that is the meaning of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

- Bar-Jesus or Elymas does not want this. He doesn't want his boss to become a Christian. He would lose business
- He would lose his sexual freedom

9 But Saul—also called Paul—filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at Elymas 10 and said, “You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery, you son of the devil and enemy of all that is right. Won't you ever stop perverting the straight paths of the Lord? 11 Now, look, the Lord's hand is against you. You are going to be blind, and will not see the sun for a time.” Immediately a mist and darkness fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

- This is where Saul begins to be called Paul btw
- Why? More than likely, Saul is very jewish/hebrew
- Paul is Greek. “Paul” is embracing his calling to the gentiles
- Only through the power of the Holy Spirit, does Paul discern his true intentions and declares God's judgment. We don't know what becomes of the sorcerer. Potentially he also came to Christ

12 Then, when he saw what happened, the proconsul believed, because he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

- Through this, Sergius Paulus believes in Christ

God saves through people:

1. Going
2. Speaking up
3. Telling the truth