



## All Citizens Christian Church

**Bible Study:** Thursday, June 2, 2016.

**Topic:** Acts 13

**INTRODUCTION:** Acts 13 tells the story of Paul's first missionary journey and the extent he covered with Barnabas. It starts with the church in Antioch and the sent-forth that saw Paul and Barnabas with John on their first missionary journey. It starts with the fasting and praying; a meeting where the Holy Spirit spoke that Paul and Barnabas should be separated for the work of the Gospel. Without wasting time they set sail on their first missionary journey.

On this journey they first encountered a sorcerer who tried to impede the work of the gospel and he got a just reward of blindness for that. Here in Acts of the Apostles is where Saul is first referred to as Paul (Vs 9). Most of the times after this encounter, his Roman name Paul was used more often than Saul which was His Jewish name. Thereafter they continued on their journey. Somewhere on this trip, John Mark who was their helper returned to Jerusalem. On this missionary journey, they almost always set out first to reach the Jews and eventually go across to the Gentiles. Before the end of Chapter 13, you will read where the Jews, out or jealousy stirred up the people against them. Before I end this introduction, I want us to take note of their manner of preaching. Paul's manner of preaching was not too different from Peter's in Chapters 2 and 3. Stephen adopted the same manner of preaching but he lost it when he spent more time accusing them instead of focusing on their salvation. The message basically paints the sin of the people and creates an opportunity for repentance. May the Lord grant us understanding tonight as we gradually go through the Acts of the Apostles Chapter 13.

### OUTLINE

#### 1. Consider the diversity of the leaders of the church at Antioch.

Barnabas – A Jew from Cyprus (Acts 4:36), Simeon also known as Niger was known among the Roman circle, Lucius – From Cyrene in North Africa, Manaen was close to people in Authority been close to Herod. Last on the list was Saul, a Jew trained in rabbinical laws.

#### What can you say about this group?

- Unity: 1 Cor 1:10, 2 Cor 13:11, Eph 4:3
- Humility: Rom 12:3, James 4:10, Phil 2:5

2. Looks like they were in a prayer meeting accompanied by fasting. It's interesting when the Holy Spirit chose Paul and Barnabas. The very leaders of the church that the disciples sent to Antioch.

**Don't you think some people would have resisted this call considering that they were the most senior so to speak and they have already established a thriving church in Antioch?**

- They knew their ministry. Eph 4:11,
- Their focus was not material wealth or earthly gains. Heb 11:10, Heb 12:1-2
- The best were sent out. Do we still do it like this if we have to send out people for the ministry work?

Note that they did not call Peter to let them know that they were leaving Antioch.

3. When they set sail they first went to Cyprus. Note that Barnabas was from Cyprus. Acts 1:8. It pays to first take the gospel to your own people.

It appears Cyprus had a lot of Jews as the disciples preached in many synagogues.

Why do you think the disciples often first went to the Jews or the synagogues?

- It looks like moving from the principle of the known to the unknown.
- Secondly the Synagogues did not only have Jews but also gentiles who will be obviously go with the message to other gentiles.
- Thirdly it was a good landing pad

4. Examine the Power of miracles in the propagation of the gospel.

Characteristics of Paul, he spoke to Elymas or Bar-Jesus the Sorcerer (Mageuo) and commanded blindness on him calling him the child of the devil instead of the son of Jesus as his name suggests in Aramaic.

Note that in this miracle a Jew was cursed and a gentile was redeemed. John 3:16, I Cor 1:22, Rom 15:18-19, Mark 16:20.

Let us pray that the Lord will confirm our ministry with signs and wonders.

See vs 13: Up until the encounter at Paphos, it appears Barnabas was in charge but from vs 13 Paul takes over.

Why did John Mark return to Jerusalem?

1. Maybe he was unhappy that his cousin Barnabas was no longer in charge.
2. Maybe he just could not take the strong tilt towards the gentiles
3. Maybe as a young man he was afraid of the journey over the mountains to Pisidia Antioch
4. Maybe he was homesick
5. Perhaps he could not cope with Paul's sickness of Malaria at Perga.

After the reading of the law and the Prophets Paul and Barnabas were asked to encourage the people with a message.

Again note the line of Paul's message. He started with the Old Testament and linked it up with the coming of Jesus.

He talked about the anticipation of the coming of the messiah

His coming, rejection and then death.

He applied this to their lives

What a brilliant way to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to a Jew.

Whenever you preach the gospel, who should you portray? . I Cor 2:2, Gal 6:14; Phil 3:8