

A “Good Act” to Follow

Acts 12:25 - 13:1-13

Acts 12:25-13:1-3, Setting the Stage for the First Missionary Journey

People and Places

THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH:

Prophets and Teachers

- **Barnabas: a Jew from Cyprus**
- **Saul, a Jew from Tarsus in Cilicia, a trained rabbi; Paul, Greek name**
- **John Mark, Jew on his mother's side; a Greek by his father, recruited in Jerusalem**
- **Simeon, a Jew probably from Africa, perhaps “Simon of Cyrene” who carried the cross (Luke 23:26) Also, called Niger, moved in Roman circles of people**
- **Lucius, from Cyrene, a North African province**
- **Manaen had political and aristocratic connections.**

Prophets: Heard from God and spoke the message to the people

Teachers: Men in the local churches who instructed new converts in the faith

Discipline of Leaders for THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

- worshipping God
- serving as ministers of God
- praying
- fasting
- laying on of hands

ACTS 13:4-12

FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY:

Barnabas and Saul in Cyprus, (home of Barnabas)

Roman province famous for copper mines and shipbuilding
Also known as Makaria, the Happy Isle, perfect climate and strong economy

**Salamis on the Island of Cyprus: proclaimed the Word of God
Paphos on the Island of Cyprus: encountered false prophet Bar-Jesus, or
Elymas, the magician, opposed Paul and Barnabas?**

Why?

**Sergius Paulus, the governor of Cyprus, wanted to hear the
Word of God.**

Verse 9

**What does it mean that Saul, also named as Paul, “fixed his gaze upon
him”?**

Verses 10 & 11

**What should be said to someone who would attempt to stand in the way of
someone coming to know Jesus through the preaching of the Gospel?**

What was the result of Paul’s rebuke? Verse 12

**Paul knew he was sent by God to the Gentiles. This could be the reason he
chose to be known by his Greek name and stuck with it.**

ACTS 13:13

**Paul has now assumed the role of leader of the expedition with no complaint
from Barnabas. It mattered not to Barnabas, which means “Son of
Encouragement” who was in charge as long as the Lord’s work was being
done. (Acts 4:36)**

**“There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn’t matter
who gets the credit.”**

**“To become truly great, one has to stand with people, not above
them.”**

“Humility is the only certain defense against humiliation.”

**“What makes humility so desirable is the marvelous thing it does to
us, it creates in us a capacity for the closest possible intimacy with
God.”**

John, better known as Mark, left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Possible reasons:

- **John Mark was very young. He may have wanted to return to his mother.**
- **He may have been a Levite (Acts 4:36), His mother's home was the center of the church in Jerusalem and he may have felt the need to return. (Acts 12:12)**
- **He joined with Barnabas and Saul in Jerusalem. He and Barnabas were cousins. (Col. 4:10) He may have resented that Paul had taken the leadership role.**
- **The rough terrain may have made him afraid.**
- **He may have had doubts about the message being taken to the Gentiles.**
- **?**

Early tradition says that John Mark was the author of the Gospel According to Mark.

Many believe he was the young man mentioned in Mark 14:51,52.

Paul refused to take him on the second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-39). Paul went with Silas and Barnabas with Mark.

Twice as much work was done for the Kingdom of God.

Paul changed his feelings about Mark (II Tim. 4:11).

Fosdick said: "No man need stay the way he is."

The deserter became an author of a gospel and Paul wanted Mark with him in the end.

Haven't we all failed God's call in some way?

Did we learn from it and, because of it, grow in the knowledge and wisdom of Christ?

Desire to grow in love, grace, and mercy!

Acts 13:14, 15

(The Lord Leads Those Who Lets Him Lead!)

Pisidian Antioch stood on a plateau 3600 ft. above sea level.

Paul and Barnabas had to cross the Taurus range of mountains by the worst road in Asia Minor, also was known to be notorious for bandits.

Why did Paul and Barnabas not preach in Pamphylia?

- Paul probably became ill with malaria and sought the high country to shake it off.
- The thorn in the flesh (2 Cor. 12:7,8)
- Tradition says that he suffered from migraine (excruciating) headaches.

Acts 13:16-41

- Only full-length sermon of Paul we have recorded
- Same major elements as Peter's sermon in Acts 2

Acts 13:42-52

Antioch was founded by Alexander the Great in 300 B.C. and had an unstable community

Jews were infuriated that God's privileges were for the Gentiles as well.

The women of influence incited their husbands against the Christian preachers.

Persecution followed. Antioch became unsafe, and Paul and Barnabas had to leave.

Note: Jews (at the time) were intent on keeping their privileges to themselves.

Christians wanted to share their privileges.

The Church must have a vision of the world as a harvest to be reaped for God.