

ON MISSION WITH THE SPIRIT

Acts 13:1-12

INTRODUCTION

As the church in Antioch grows and becomes more effective at discipling believers, the need for further expansion is impressed upon the leadership. This initiative requires a Spirit-wrought movement of God. He identifies, directs, and empowers gifted people to engage a culture deceived by sin, the flesh, and the spirit of this Age— beginning on the island of Cyprus.

THIS WEEK:

Discover this week from Acts 13:1-12 how the Holy Spirit initiates an expansion of the Gospel into a world filled with people deceived by superstition and religious hucksters.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 13:1-12 and then answering the following questions:

1. Describe the circumstances in Antioch by which the Spirit set apart Paul and Barnabas as missionaries (vv. 1-3):
2. Summarize the encounter Paul, Barnabas, and John Mark had in Paphos (vv. 4-8):
3. How did Paul address the situation with Elymas (vv. 9-11)?
4. What was the result of the incident in Paphos on the Holy Spirit's mission (v. 12)?

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. How does the process of selecting missionaries in vv. 1-3 compare and contrast with the selection of apostles in Acts 1:13-15, 21, of deacons in Acts 6:1-7, and of elders in Acts 14:23?

6. Encounters with sorcerers, mediums, spiritist, and the like are found in the New Testament and were a common feature of the ancient world. Review Acts 8:9-11, 16:16-19, and 19:18-20. What appear to be the goals and motives of such people?

7. False prophets are sometimes difficult to identify. Consider the following passages and describe the signs of false prophet;
 - a. Deut 18:21-22; Jer 28:9
 - b. Deut 13:1-3; Jer 23:13
 - c. 2 Pet 2:1-3; Micah 3:11
 - d. Jude 4; Jer 23:14
 - e. 2 Pet 2:1; Gal 1:6-8
 - f. 2 Tim 4:3-4; Jer 6:14
 - g. Rom 16:17-18; Titus 1:10-11

8. What is the irony associated with Elymas being struck blind by the Lord in verse 11 (c.f. John 9:39-40; Acts 9:8)?

APPLICATION *Why does it matter?*

Now that you know what the passage means, think through the various ways it may apply to your life or the lives of others:

9. Describe a time in your life when you distinctly sensed the Lord's will, or direction about a decision you made. What did that look like? How did you know that it was the Lord speaking through the Spirit?
10. Share a time in your life or in the life of someone you know encounter a false teacher or someone in the occult. What happened?
11. What expressions of the occult or false prophets do you see in our world? Has these expressions been positive or negative for the gospel? Explain.
12. What are some of the secular false prophets out there? In what ways can the gospel combat these voices?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?
14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?