

Recap of 11/14/21 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 13:4-12

1. Acts 13:4-12 highlights the first leg of what we call the “first missionary journey.” Once again Luke demonstrates that the real inspirer and director of this mission is the Holy Spirit.

-“Luke emphasized the divine initiative. The role of the church is to perceive this initiative, not create it” (Baker).

-the church confirms the call and identifies with God’s purposes, then releases Barnabas and Saul for service.

-But it is the Holy Spirit Who sends them out.

2. Previous to Acts 13 we have seen religious and governmental opposition to the gospel. In chapter 13 we seen satanic opposition to the gospel. Once again, we see the church victorious. This time over the demonic.

3. From chapter 13 of Acts on we see various changes take place in the mission. There is the change from a primarily Jewish mission to a primarily Gentile mission; form the leadership of Barnabas to the leadership of Paul; also Saul (his Hebrew name) begins to use the name Paul (his Greek/Roman name). The reason for the name change is simply that Paul’s mission would be primarily to Gentiles. The change in name reflects the change in the focus of the ministry, from Jews to Gentiles. It also reflects a principle of ministry/evangelism: identify with the one to whom you are witnessing. Try to remove roadblocks to the gospel and look for common traits with the unbelievers around us (e.g. marriage, childrearing, career concerns, etc.).

4. Marks of leadership from Acts 13:4-12:

-a good leader must also be a good follower when the occasion calls for it

-we must not hold onto status or position so tightly that God cannot make a change

-if God does make a change we must remain in the shadows and be supportive

-we must keep our eye on the big picture of what God is trying to do, not just our corner of it.

5. Elymas, the sorcerer, seeks to keep Sergius Paulus from hearing and responding to the gospel. In response Paul call down blindness upon him. He was already in spiritual darkness, now he was in physical darkness as well. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:4 that: “The god of this world has blinded the mind of unbelievers do that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” Satan blinds unbelievers to the truth.

-there is no glory in a cross unless you have eyes to see. (It is simply an instrument of torture)

-there is no glory in humility unless you have eyes to see.

-there is no glory in servanthood unless you have eyes to see.

6. Despite Elymas’ efforts, Sergius Paulus believes the gospel, not because he was amazed at Paul’s miracle, but because he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord. It was the Word of God which changed him.