

ACTS: Saul to Paul

Acts 13:1-12

The Commissioning (v. 1-3)

- Antioch church's leaders are spiritually-gifted as well as multiculturally and socioeconomically diverse
 - Barnabas: a Levite from Cyprus (4:36)
 - Simeon (Niger): a black man, probably of African descendant
 - Lucius: a Roman from Cyrene in North Africa (11:20)
 - Manaen: In his youth was chosen as a companion to Herod Antipas
 - Saul: a Pharisee from Cilicia in southeast Asia Minor (22:3; Phil 3:5)
- While seeking the Lord, God calls Barnabus & Saul to be sent as missionaries
 - Once they are prayed over, they're sent out
- This begins the first Paul's missionary journey (Acts 13:1-14:28)

In Cyprus (v. 4-8)

- The Holy Spirit leads Barnabus & Saul to the island of Cyprus via the port of Seleucia
 - Barnabus' home territory
 - Accompanied by John Mark
- They land in the eastern port of Salamis
 - And proclaim Jesus in the synagogue there
 - Paul's model was to preach to the Jewish residence of a city first, and then to the Gentiles
- They travel across the island, proclaiming Christ wherever they go
- When they arrive in the west coast port of Paphos, the governor, Sergius Paulus, wants to hear the message they bring
 - They meet opposition from a false prophet named Elymas
 - Bar-Jesus: "Son of Salvation"

Paul Takes the Lead (v. 9-12)

- Paul steps up to confront Elymas
- This is the first time he is called "Paul"
 - Saul: Hebrew for "desired"
 - Paul: Latin for "small"
 - His use of the name Paul may have been as a personal call to humility (John 3:30)
- He calls Elymas out for his deceit and treachery
 - Speaking via the Holy Spirit, he curses the false prophet with blindness

- This display of the Spirit's power convinces the governor of the authenticity of the Gospel message
 - He puts his faith in Christ

So What?

- Is it our desire to see the world know Jesus?
- Are we humbly making much of Him, and little of us?
- Do we trust Him to display His power as we faithfully proclaim His Gospel?

Meditation Verse: Romans 1:16