

## The Book of Acts; Lesson #7– Paul’s First Missionary Journey (Acts 13, 14) (Map on Screen)

### Memory Verse

**Acts 13:39–40 (NKJV)** *and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:*

**From Antioch - Turkish name Antakya.** = Driven against.

### Salamis and Paphos (Cyprus) 44-46 AD

Why did Paul choose Cyprus, as the first place he would evangelize?

1. The third largest island in the Mediterranean, was fairly close to the mainland.
2. There was a large Jewish settlement there even before the time of Alexander the Great. When Paul visited he was able to preach the gospel in several synagogues (Acts 13:5).
3. The island was the home of Paul’s traveling companion Barnabas (Acts 4:36). It may have also been a former residence of John Mark, who was a cousin of Barnabas “Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10).

Paul and company cross the island by foot and arrive at Paphos. While in Paphos the island's Roman governor requests Barnabas and Paul meet with him so that he can personally hear the word of God. Accompanying the governor to the meeting is a sorcerer and false prophet known as Elymas the magician. Elymas resists the gospel and tries to prevent the governor from accepting the truth of God (Acts 13:6 - 8). Paul perceives Elymas' intentions, intently looks at him, then strikes the magician of the black arts BLIND.

**Acts 13:8–12 (NKJV)** *But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. <sup>9</sup> Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, “O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.” And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.*

This is a major turning point in the narrative of Acts, for Paul become the primary speaker between he and Barnabas and his name from here on changes from Saul to Paul. Possibly in honor of Sergius Paulus? This is probably also because from now on Paul finds himself mostly in a Greco-Roman environment.

**Acts 14:12 (NKJV)** *And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.*

### Pisidian Antioch: Part 1

#### John-Mark Turns Home

**Acts 13:13 (ESV)** *Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,*

**Acts 12:12 (NKJV)** *So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.*

**Colossians 4:10 (NKJV)** *Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas*

**\*Mark 14:51–52 (NKJV)** *Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked.*

#### Division Over John Mark

**Acts 15:36–40 (NKJV)** *Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.” <sup>37</sup> Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. <sup>38</sup> But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. <sup>39</sup> Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.*

In Acts 13:16–41 in Antioch in Pisidia we have Paul’s first recorded sermon and a perfect sample of what he preached in Jewish synagogues.

### Pisidian Antioch: Part 2

**Acts 13:39–40 (NKJV)** *and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. <sup>40</sup> Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:*

**Acts 15:10** (NKJV) *Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?*

**Acts 13:42–43** (NKJV) *So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. <sup>43</sup> Now when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.*

**\*Acts 13:44** *On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.*

**1 Corinthians 14:18** (NKJV) *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;*

### Iconium

**Acts 13:45–48** (NKJV) *But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. <sup>46</sup> Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. <sup>47</sup> For so the Lord has commanded us:*

*‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles,*

*That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”*

<sup>48</sup> *Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*

**Acts 13:49–52** (NKJV) *And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

**\*Matthew 10:14–15** (NKJV) *And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!*

### Lystra and Derbe

**Acts 14:8–18** (NKJV) *And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. <sup>9</sup> This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and*

*seeing that he had faith to be healed, <sup>10</sup> said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked. <sup>11</sup> Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!” <sup>12</sup> And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup> Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. <sup>14</sup> But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out <sup>15</sup> and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, <sup>16</sup> who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. <sup>17</sup> Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” <sup>18</sup> And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.*

### Stoning, Escape to Derbe

**Acts 14:19–20** (NKJV) *Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. <sup>20</sup> However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.*

**Acts 14:21–28** (NKJV) *And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, <sup>22</sup> “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.*