

The Apostle Paul – Lesson 10: The First Mission (Perga in Pamphylia)

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, *Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 9 (First Mission - Cyprus)

1. According to Acts 13:5, who was ministering to the needs of Saul and Barnabas?

Answer: John (John Mark, cousin to Barnabas).

2. According to Acts 13:6, who is the first obstacle, and how are they defined?

Answer: a. Barjesus (Elymas), b. A sorcerer and false prophet.

3. According to Matthew 7:15, how is the hunger of a false teacher described?

Answer: A ravening wolf.

4. According to Matthew 18:18, what power did Christ give the Apostles (in their dispensation)?

*Answer: **Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.***

5. Complete the following scripture:

1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch ye, stand fast in the **faith**, quit you like men, be **strong**.

True / False

False The first stop was Paphos in Cyprus. (ACTS 13:5 - Salamis)

True Wickedness is often in positions of authority (EPH 6:12)

True Our actions reveal who we are a spiritual child of (JOHN 8:44)

True The power of believers today is in the Word of God (ROM 1:16)

Lesson 10: First Mission (Perga in Pamphylia)

On the island, Paul and Barnabas, with John Mark to assist, travelled from Salamis to Paphos along the Cyprus road. This was the Roman route along Cyprus' southern coast. Paphos was the seat of Roman government in Cyprus, where Proconsul Sergius Paulus, appointed by the Senate of Rome, requested an audience with Paul and Barnabas, heard the gospel (in spite of the objections of Barjesus, who Paul blinded), and professed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This is when Saul came to be called Paul.

Now Paul and Barnabas are shipboard as they leave Paphos for Perga, a mainland city in Pamphylia (modern day south western city of Aksu, Turkey).

At the time of their mission, Perga was a Greek (Athenian) possession under Roman rule, previously taken from the Persians, and to return to the Persians later in conquest.

Acts 13:13 – Things change

Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

There was a shift in leadership while in Paphos.

Up to the point of the conversion of Proconsul Sergius Paulus, the mission is noted as 'Barnabas and Saul', indicating the lead rested on Barnabas. After this point, the mission is noted as 'Paul and company', indicating the mantle of leadership passing to Paul.

Acts 9:15 For he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel

Although Barnabas is an intelligent, mature and faithful believer, it is inevitable that Paul take the lead role at some point and his role in admonishing with Barjesus and witnessing to Sergius Paulus was probably the sign Barnabas was waiting for to give Paul his opportunity to lead the mission team.

John Mark, as a relative to Barnabas, was probably comfortable with his cousin's leadership style and direction. It is possible he felt Barnabas was easier to follow, as John Mark probably trusted in Barnabas as a leader, and most likely did not align with Paul as he assumed this lead position.

Two key points in this testimony:

1. It is acceptable to have differences and change direction, but be a mature and faithful believer to act in love and hold no ill will

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

- Change among believers can be good, but it must be for the right reasons

Jeremiah 17:5-8 – Where is your trust?

(5) Thus saith the LORD; Cursed *be* the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

(6) For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land and not inhabited.

(7) Blessed *is* the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

(8) For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

- John Mark would have been wise (and blessed) to trust in the Lord, as the team took Paul to the lead position, to know that the mission, as charged by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:4 – Sent by the Holy Ghost), that success was assured, regardless of who was 'in charge', for it is the Lord who is actually 'in charge'.

Proverbs 19:21 *There are* many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

- The Lord is in control! You may have to occasionally remind yourself.
- Placing your trust in another person to secure your salvation is a deadly error – although many demonstrate 'good will' and convincing direction, there is only one path to God and His heaven:
 - Trust in Jesus Christ (**John 14:6** *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*)
 - There are no courses, acts, deeds, or actions (works) that will make you righteous before God – Only the acceptance of God's gift of the Christ can bring His righteousness to rest on you. Any who try to guide you through a set of 'rituals', duties or responsibilities have some other motive.

We will see more on the issues that separate believers from each other, as history shows it is rarely over disputes in doctrine, but personal issues or differences that often lead to people parting ways.

2. Barnabas is an exceptional leader – It is the responsibility of a leader to:

- Prepare others to reach this level of service
 - Training
 - Mentoring
 - Demonstrating
- Present opportunities to grow leadership among your team
 - Guide events to place people in positions of increased responsibility
 - Look for situations where people can choose to provide leadership
- Support a new leader
 - Encouragement
 - Cooperation
 - Commitment

John 13:15-17 – Jesus washes the feet of His disciples and says:

(15) For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you..

(16) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

(17) If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

To be a 'leader' is not to have others in subjection, but to be responsible for them to their betterment and growth, that those in your charge may become the faithful stewards of others, as they bring this lesson leading in love.

There is satisfaction in achieving this level of service – It is a blessing of the Lord!

Barnabas stayed with Paul, not leaving with John Mark, indicating his role as a 'silent leader' in guiding Paul in the remainder of this mission journey.

There is not a lot of activity described in the landing at Perga – No testimony of preaching or witnessing.

By all description, the team was probably tired from both their travels, and discussions leading up to John Mark's decision to leave the mission and return to Jerusalem.

After their rest, they quickly took to continuing their journey to Antioch in Pisidia, and reach out to the community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the direction our Lord issued (to seek, to submit and to serve), the believer is to look for opportunities to serve, and to lead! It is not 'what you lead' that matters, but that you lead 'something', as you grow to bring betterment to others!

Next lesson, we continue on with Paul to Antioch in Pisidia.

Lesson 10: First Mission (Perga in Pamphylia)

Study Questions

1. According to Acts 13:13, who left the mission trip?

2. According to Acts 9:15, name two groups Paul is commissioned to witness to.

a. _____

b. _____

3. According to Jeremiah 17:5, what is the fate of one who trusts man?

4. According to John 13:15, what does Christ request?

5. Complete the following scripture:

John 13:17 If ye _____ these things, happy are ye if ye _____ them.

True / False

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| T | F | The team sailed from Paphos to Perga. |
| T | F | Paul witnessed to many in Perga. |
| T | F | Barnabas took over as leader of the team in Perga. |
| T | F | God is in control only if you allow. |

The Route

1. Cyprus (Salamis and Paphos)
2. Perga in Pamphylia
3. Antioch in Pisidia
4. Iconium
5. Lystra
6. Derbe

(the return is the same in reverse)

