

The Apostle Paul – Lesson 11: The First Mission (Antioch in Pisidia)

Luke 9:26 For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed.

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 10 (First Mission - Perga in Pamphylia)

1. According to Acts 13:13, who left the mission trip?
Answer: John (John Mark, cousin to Barnabas).
2. According to Acts 9:15, name two groups Paul is commissioned to witness to?
Answer: a. The Gentiles, b. And kings, c. And the children of Israel.
3. According to Jeremiah 17:5, what is the fate of one who trusts man?
Answer: Cursed be the man.
4. According to John 13:15, what does Christ request?
Answer: For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.
5. Complete the following scripture:
John 13:17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

True / False

True The team sailed from Paphos to Perga. (ACTS 13:13)

False Paul witnessed to many in Perga (ACTS 13:13-14 – Just passed through)

False Barnabas took over as leader of the team in Perga. (ACTS 13:13 – Paul's company)

False God is in control only if you allow (PROV 19:21 – God is always in control)

Lesson 11: First Mission (Antioch in Pisidia)

A vacation trip should be relatively care-free. However, a mission trip is not a vacation; it is about being on the Father's business: reaching through preaching and teaching. My greatest hope is that those who read or hear of Paul's testimony become inspired to ask themselves 'what do I do for my Father's business'? That it is motivation to seek opportunities to bring God to others, that they may come to the Father through the Son.

As Paul has taken on the leadership role in this mission trip, we will witness his passion for the Lord, and how he brings Christ to others.

Acts 13:14 – Choosing where to start

But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and sat down.

Paul's priority has always been clear

Romans 1:16 To the Jew first, and also to the Greek

- The Jews (the children of the promise) are directly chosen by God; with assurance they belong to Him
Deuteronomy 7:6 For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.
- Christ also noted this same plan
Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

- The Greek (gentiles – Those who are not Jews) are also under the promise:
Genesis 26:4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed

The mission team attends the worship service at the synagogue, not in disruption, confrontation or self-righteousness, but in respect, as it is the place where oracles of God are brought forward.

Acts 13:15-16 – The invitation

(15) And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men *and* brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

(16) Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with *his* hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

The visitors (Paul and Barnabas) are invited to speak – Being from Jerusalem, the Jewish men of this synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia are hoping to hear from those who have current experience, training and possibly higher learning from the Jewish cultural and governmental center (the center of their world).

As we come to know Paul, we have established two things about him:

1. He is not shy – He is consistent in boldness and zeal in all accounts we have examined
2. He has flare – His mannerisms aren't to simply respond, but to punctuate his communication with dramatic flow, to bring the audience's full attention to his every word, that each gesture is preceding information of the utmost importance – And they are correct!

Paul begins as he establishes his audience as having a holy identity under God – This news is for them!

Acts 13:17-39 – The message (key verses noted)

(17) The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

Paul begins with the history of God's selection of Israel, and in verses 18-21 takes the journey through the kingdom of Saul

(22) And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

This earthly kingdom is given to David, who, not in his own righteousness, but being after the heart of God, becomes the instrument of God's will. – to reconcile humanity to God.

(23) Of this man's seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

The will of God revealed – to reconcile humanity to God through the Christ – Of the seed of David!

Paul describes the key events supported by scripture, to confirm the identity of the Christ:

Verses 24 - 25 Describe the ministry of John the Baptist, and his role as the forerunner of the Christ

(26) Men *and* brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

- This message is for any who seek God

Verses 27 - 29 The unjustified killing of Jesus Christ and His burial

- The power of 'religion' blinded the rulers to the truth and Christ was executed; that this was also fulfillment of the very scriptures being read each Sabbath day

(30) But God raised him from the dead:

- The power of God revealed

Verses 31 - 39 Prophecy fulfilled:

31	Many (witnesses of the resurrection)	33	Begotten Son of the Father
34 -37	His body to not see corruption	38	Forgiveness of sin through Christ (Jesus)

Acts 13:40-41 – The warning

(40) Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;

(41) Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.

Mark 4:5-6 – Paul warns the accepting of the good news of the gospel of Christ is at risk

(5) *And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:*

(6) *But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.*

Pride, vanity, envy – All can prevent the goodness of God from growing in you, if you reject Christ

Acts 13:42-43 – A good reaction

(42) And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath.

(43) Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

(44) And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

- The Gentiles were paying attention – They could be included in the promise through Christ!
- People were eager to hear more.

Acts 13:45 – A bad reaction

But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

Matthew 27:18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

As it was with the rejection of Christ, so it is with the rejection of the gospel.

Acts 13:46-49 – A door is opened

(46) Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, it was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

(47) For so hath the Lord commanded us, *saying*, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

(48) And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

(49) And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Paul and Barnabas respond that the truth of God is for all – Their commission includes the Gentiles. The Gentiles not only received the gospel with a ready heart, but advertised far and wide!

Acts 13:50 – Bitterness revealed

But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

Some tactics never change – If you are offended, rally others who will unreservedly react poorly.

Opportunity may be where you least expect it, and not where you look. Paul and Barnabas expected to reach the Jews (those aware of the promise and prophecies) in the hope of bringing life.

The true opportunity was revealed in the response of the Gentiles – A door Paul gladly steps through.

Next lesson, we continue on with Paul to Iconium.

Lesson 11: First Mission (Antioch in Pisidia)

Study Questions

1. According to Acts 13:14, where did Paul and Barnabas go first?

2. According to Romans 1:16, what is the priority for bringing the gospel?

a. _____

b. _____

3. According to Acts 13:15, what prompted Paul to share the gospel?

4. According to John 13:42, who wanted to hear more of Paul's testimony?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Matthew 27:18 For he knew that for _____ they had _____ him.

True / False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | Paul immediately started preaching. |
| T | F | The promise of God includes the Gentile. |
| T | F | The Jews of Antioch gladly received the gospel. |
| T | F | The Gentiles gladly received the gospel. |

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)

