

The Apostle Paul – Lesson 13: The First Mission (Derbe and Lystra)

Matthew 19:26 But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, **With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.**

Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from lesson 12 (First Mission – Iconium)

1. According to John 17:17, what sanctifies the believer?

Answer: Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

2. According to Acts 13:51, what did Paul and Barnabas do upon leaving Antioch?

Answer: They shook off the dust of their feet against them.

3. Referencing Galatians 5:22, name one fruit of the Spirit.

Answer: Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

4. According to Acts 14:1, where did Paul and Barnabas begin to witness?

Answer: The synagogue.

5. Complete the following scripture:

Luke 12:51 Suppose ye that I am come to give **peace** on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather **division**.

True / False

True The believer is sent into the world. (JOHN 17:18)

True The believer is expected to bring light to the darkness. (MATT 5:16)

True The believer is expected to be bold. (DEUT 31:6 / JOS 1:9)

True Believers are to work together. (PHIL 2:2)

Lesson 13: First Mission (Derbe and Lystra)

Humanity is always in danger of becoming the most important thing in their own heart.

The feeling of accomplishment is good, as it confirms completion, but can lead to the danger of putting one's self before God in the sense of who is the source of one's success.

As we follow Paul and Barnabas into Lystra, we will see opportunities for reviewing:

1. Source of authority – Apostolic powers and the believers of today
2. Faith – The vehicle of God's power in the life of the believer
3. Pride – The poison that separates us from God.

Where we left off...

Acts 14:6 – Time to go

They were ware of *it*, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:

Avoiding physical confrontation - This conflict is not between the members of humanity, but against the Spirit of Light and the darkness (reacting violently – you are putting God aside, not exercising faith)

Acts 14:7 – Priorities

And there they preached the gospel.

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

First order of business – Bring the gospel! Everything else is secondary.
Paul and Barnabas begin with witnessing of Jesus Christ

Paul has Apostolic authority

Acts 14:8-10 – A lame man healed

(8) And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

God often uses undeniable conditions to establish the miracle – That it is not a coincidence with a natural healing already in process. A couple examples:

John 5:1-13 – Jesus heals a man with infirmity of 38 years at the pool of Bethesda

Acts 3:1-8 – Peter heals a man lame from birth at the temple

(9) The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Paul, as the other Apostles, was given the authority to bring the power of God as a witness:

Matthew 19:28 – Jesus describes the distinction of the Apostle

And Jesus said unto them, *Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

The Apostles have what would be described today as 'supernatural powers' – These powers are not given to all believers, it is for the purpose of establishing the church

From 'Verse By Verse Ministry' on-line:

Do the New Testament authors repeat and extend Jesus' comments to a larger audience? (Re: powers)

In a word, no. None of the New Testament authors ever teach Jesus' words as a universal truth for all believers. The letters from the Apostles give no authority to believers in general to speak in tongues, cast out demons, heal the sick or handle deadly animals without harm, etc.. Consequently, we should not assume to receive such gifts or powers without specific evidence that the Holy Spirit has chosen to gift us such powers.

The Apostles also have the promise of Jesus Christ, to be in a position of leadership under Him, as they judge Israel. This is not to all believers.

(10) Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

The faith of the believer is the vehicle for God to work in your life. Jesus does not boast of His healing hand – He notes it is the power of faith:

Luke 17:19 And he said unto him, *Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.*

- Christ credits the faith of the believer as the power of the miracle

Acts 14:11-13 – The reaction of the people of Lystra

(11) And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

(12) And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

(13) Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

The witnessing of the healing feat is nothing short of amazing! There is something different about Paul and Barnabas – They must be ‘gods’

Acts 14:14-17 – The reaction of Paul and Barnabas to the praise

(14) *Which* when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,

(15) And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

Paul and Barnabas, in humility, confirm they are no different, with the exception that they bring the good news (gospel) of the one true God (the creator of all)

- That, through these miracles, humanity can choose to turn to God, in the true Spirit of reconciliation.

(16) Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

(17) Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

The witness of men is the tool God uses to bring the truth.

People of less integrity would have seized the moment to revel in the glory of worship!

The pride of worship is one of the most powerful poisons that separate us from God:

Proverbs 16:18 – Pride is a path away from God

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall

Paul and Barnabas resist the temptation and glorify God

John 8:7 – Pride brings judgement

So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, **He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.**

Christ challenges us to consider our own behavior before condemning others

Acts 14:18 – Reason prevails

And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

At the urgings of Paul and Barnabas, the people turn from worshipping them.

Acts 14:19-21 – Reason prevails

(19) And there came thither *certain* Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew *him* out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Satan does not take a day off – Darkness continuously attempts to consume the light

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

(20) Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

(21) And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

Paul and Barnabas never sway from their mission, as the charge was to bring the gospel.

In faith, both men steadfastly moved forward, in faith that the work was of the Lord, in faith that they would continue as long as the Lord required – That no power on earth was capable of stopping them, that only a lack of faith could prevent a miracle!

Next lesson, we continue on with Paul on the return trip.

Lesson 13: First Mission (Derbe and Lystra)

Study Questions

1. According to Acts 14:7, what was the first activity of Paul and Barnabas?

2. According to Matthew 19:27, what is to be the role of the Apostle in heaven?

3. Referencing Luke 17:19, What is the power of the miracle?

4. According to Acts 14:13, what was the reaction of the people to the healing miracle?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Matthew 19:26 With men this is _____; but with God all things are _____.

True / False

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| T | F | Paul healed the lame man in Derbe. |
| T | F | Paul and Barnabas accept the honor for healing a man. |
| T | F | Pride leads to destruction. |
| T | F | Satan only works six days a week. |

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)

