

Acts 13:1-52 A New Chapter

What do you think of when you hear the phrase being Led by

A) Is this what comes to your mind – Child on a leash – being dragged unwilling by their parent.

B) Or how about this one – Dog that is leading it's owner!

1) Who is walking Who?

C) Or this one – The husband at the Mall – look at that face – **No – not another store** – and look he is holding her purse.

1) Talk about being emasculated!

D) **Being led by someone** – means I am going to end up where I don't want to be! –

1) doing something I don't want to do!

Unfortunately that is how some pp think when it comes to the idea of being led by the Holy Spirit.

A) God is **dragging me** into places where I don't want to be and dragging me to do things that I don't want to do!

B) Here is what I want you to Know! – God isn't going to **DRAG YOU ANYWHERE!**

C) But if you follow Him – If you yield yourself to Him – He will take you to amazing places

D) Some of those places will even be hard and difficult – but in the midst of the difficulty and pressure – His Presence will be Strong!

E) We see a great example of that here in Acts 13

1) Title : **Led by the Spirit**

Acts 13 is a great picture of how the Church is to function, but also a great example for our lives as individuals.

A) Acts 13 records a major shift that takes place in the Church!

B) Focus shifts from Jerusalem to Antioch,

1) from Peter to Paul!

C) This is the account of the first organized missions movement of the early Church.

1) We have Seen the **Church Scattered** – now we are going to see them SENT!

Background on the Church in Antioch : It Started in Acts 11 – Just some random no name believers went there sharing the gospel.

A) A host of people got saved!

B) Apostles sent Barnabas to encourage – things continued to grow –

1) Barney said I need help – he went and found Paul.

C) Teaching there for over a year – Discipling this group

D) The Church in Antioch grew by leaps and bounds – both numerically and in maturity.

1) Acts 13 the Lord is going to begin to move in a **new Direction** the HS is going to lead them into new territory!

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2

A) This is the Leadership of the Church – **Elders – Prophets and teachers.**

B) This church was amazingly Diverse. It included Barnabas, a native of Cyprus, {Son of Encouragement

1) and a black man named Simeon from present day Nigeria

C) ...and Lucius of Cyrene...

1) How did Lucius get saved?

D) Possible - Simon the Cyrene Cross-bearer went back to Cyrene, talked about Jesus – Lucius heard..

...and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch....

A) Manaen was a foster-brother of Herod Antipas—the Herod who cut off John the Baptist’s head.

B) Talk about the grace and sovereignty of God!

1) Manaen grew up in Herod’s vile, polluted family—yet the Lord rescued him and saved him for ministry.

C)...and Saul the former Rabbi

1) This was the church LEADERSHIP at Antioch—a racially integrated group of guys!

Notice what they are doing!

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

A) They ministered to the Lord..... fasted

B) **Ministered TO— not FOR!** – We can spend a lot of time – doing ministry – serving – running around

1) Without ever **ministering** to the Lord

C) Great example Luke 10 Mary and Martha

1) Martha – **distracted, worried, concerned, agitated**, { 2) **No Joy** – great indication – you are missing something – not ministering to!

D) Martha you are worried and troubled... many things – **one thing is needed** – Mary has chosen.....

1) Mary made a choice – to minister to Jesus – to sit at his feet.

Ministering to the Lord – involves worship!

Notice what Happened V.2b – The Holy Spirit spoke:

A) **This is the pattern for our services** – if you have ever wondered why we worship before teaching

B) Worship is our way as a body of ministering to the Lord!

1) Worship has a way of preparing our hearts to hear from the Holy Spirit – in the teaching

C) We start our leadership meetings this way—worship – ministering to the Lord

1) Trusting that the Holy Spirit is going to speak to us as we do

So we read here that as they ministered to the Lord – the Holy Spirit spoke.

A) How did He speak? – not told.

B) Jesus said this of the HS in John 16:13 – The HS will guide you.

C) Probably – the Lord gave one of these guys a word of Knowledge –

1) this is what the Lord is saying – how He is moving!

The others guys confirmed it!

Note: V.3 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

Says After more fasting – Lets be sure - they laid hands on them and sent them away!

A) The word sent here is actually released them.

B) I think that is worth noting – because think about who this was!

1) Barnabas and Paul – these were two of the Pillars of the Church.

C) They released them to go! They weren’t trying to hang on to them.

D) Often times Churches **are eager** to release trouble makers

1) I feel called to missions – Great – you can be someone else’s problem! ☺

That is not what they were doing! – They released their best to what the Lord was calling them to do!

A) This Church has always followed that model!

B) You think about the group of pp that we have released to follow God’s leading – Amazing!

C) To date: Since 1990 - CV has sent or released over 60 people to go serve the Lord, Church plant 1) Or to the mission field full time service

D) That number doesn’t include the kids - We are a sending Church! – God designed us to be that way!

E) Some in our Church family have struggled with that – **They get attached to guys** – or their looking forward – to having their kids have this youth guy

But you think about the impact that this fellowship has made around the world – because of our willingness to release guys! – AMAZING

A)Not only that – opens new doors for others.

B)Once a pastor asked me... bugged me?

C)Ken Sutton – John Randle – John -Charlie – Charlie – Phil – Phil – Danny

D)Jr. High – Chris Warner-Marc- Evan – Trevor - Aaron – Alex and now Matt

All of those guys that have been released are serving the Lord somewhere in a full time capacity.

A)Some of them have gone on to make major impacts in the World for Jesus!

B)So I rejoice now when we get to release someone to further ministry – CV Influence expands

1)We get to see how God is going to provide for us!

C)SO it no longer frustrates me – it excites me!

D)So the Church at Antioch sends out their best Barnabas and Saul

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. **They also had John as their assistant.**

There are four important things to note here:

#1 They were sent out by the Holy Spirit – this wasn't their own plan – they were being led by God's spirit – born out of the time of praying and Fasting.

#2 They went!

A)Here is an important truth for you who are trying to **discern God's will for your life. Look carefully.**

B)The text says, **“they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, they went”**

1)The Holy Spirit\ called them out, but *they* had to respond.

C)The Holy Spirit gave direction, but it was up to *them* to begin the journey.

D)There comes a point when the Lord, having made His will for you clear to you, expects you to depart—

1)to take the first step on whatever path He has directed you to walk.

#3 They took John Mark with them.

A)John Mark, first mentioned in verse 25 of chapter 12, was the nephew of Barnabas.

B)According to 1 Peter 5:13, it seems he was converted by Peter and later disciples under the tutelage of his uncle Barnabas.

#4 As soon as they go they are met by opposition

6 Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, 7 who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

So The enemy comes against them through this sorcerer.

B)When the spirit is leading – it doesn't mean there is going to be smooth sailings

1)**Quite the opposite – There will be opposition.**

9 Then Saul, who also **is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit,** looked intently at him 10 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? 11 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. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

C)V.9 Paul is filled with the HS – Empowered - 1)resulting in boldness to deal with it!

D)The power comes when – we step out in obedience to what the Lord is calling us to do!

1)Waiting on the power – No step out – be obedient

V.12 Interest me Luke didn't say Sergius Paulus was astonished at the miracle that took place.

A) It helped lead to him believing – yes – but Luke says he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

B) **“You mean God loves me?”** Sergius Paulus must have wondered in amazement.

1) “You mean He became a Man and died in *my* place?”

C) You mean **I can be forgiven and saved**—made right and redeemed?”

D) That is astonishing ! Message of the Cross – of Redemption.

Note V.9 name change from Saul to Paul – Why?

A) Did Saul of Tarsus just have a bad rep – too hard to get over ?

B) Not sure but I find it interesting that the name Saul means – requested one.

1) Important people get request right ?

C) Paul on the other hand means little - small –

1) So much Paul's heart – Philippians – count who I was and used to be confident in as garbage

⁴ And we have such trust through Christ toward God.

⁵ Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God, ⁶ who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant – 2 Corinthians 3:4,5

Now in V.13 we see a shift in the story

13 Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos,

Catch that Paul and his Party.

It was Barnabas who had set out as the leader of this Mission team

A) But now it is Paul and Barnabas. Paul has assumed the leadership of the expedition.

B) **NOTE:** The beautiful thing about Barnabas is that there is not one word of complaint from him.

1) He was a man prepared to take the second place so long as God's work was done.

APPLICATION: The MODEL of the Book of Acts tells us that success in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ is built upon the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:3-8 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Barnabas didn't have to be the man.

A) He didn't care what He was doing for God as long as He was doing something.

B) He recognized the calling on Paul and was willing to allow Paul to lead.

C) Step back – always be willing to work yourself out of a Job –

1) But I won't have anything to do – Wrong

D) 1st Uganda team – 2015 – Dave P

1) Dave and Rob – Rob has gone crazy – awesome
2 trips this year maybe 3

E) Me – NZ Austria and Israel this year

1) I can't be gone more than that

¹³ Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

Note V.13 says they came to Perga – that is when John Mark left them. – back to Jerusalem

A) File that in the back of your minds – significant later on – John Mark couldn't cut it –

B) Ministry wasn't what he thought it was going to be.

C) This leads to the breakup of Paul and Barnabas

Pick up the Story in V.14 14 But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia,

and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down.

Now this is another city named Antioch, but this city is in a whole different region.

A)Antioch Pisidia stood on a plateau 3,600 feet above sea-level in the Region of Galatia.

B)To get to this city Paul and Barnabas would travel 100 miles north on one of the hardest roads in Asia Minor,

1)a road which was also notorious for robbers and thugs.

C)And they would have cross the Taurus range of mountains one by one.{ Tough trip

As you follow Paul's journeys in Acts, you will notice that he selected strategic cities,

A)He planted churches in those cities and went from those churches to plant in surrounding areas

B)Hungary – Szeged – Budapest –

1)Tauranga NZ –

C)Now Paul had a specific methodology when he came to a new city

1)He would start by going into the synagogue of the Jews – 10 Jewish men to have a synagogue

Paul would preach Jesus in the synagogue and if the Jews rejected he would then go to the Gentiles

A)So in Antioch of Pisidia – they first go to the synagogue

15 And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men and brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on."

B)when the ruler of the Synagogue notices them – Perhaps noticing Paul – famed Rabbi

1) "Folks we have a celebrity in our midst – former – top student of Gamaliel – Saul of Tarsus.

C)Only a visiting rabbi would be allowed to speak in the synagogue.

D)What an open door! – WOW!

E)It is here that we are going to see Paul preach his first sermon. –

1)what He preaches here is very significant.

Let's read his sermon Rd v.16-40

A)In v.16-26 to set the stage he gives sort of History lesson – Just like Stephen's sermon –

B)Impact on Paul – he follows the same direction

1)Learning how to teach

¹⁶ Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it. ¹⁸ Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment.

²⁰ "After that He gave *them* judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, '*I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.*' ²³ From this man's seed, according to *the* promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—²⁴ after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not *He*. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.'

²⁶ "Men *and* brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent.

In V. 16-26 Paul does a quick rehearsal of Jewish history.

A)How everything that God did in establishing the nation of Israel – was leading up to this:

B)That He would send a Savior – who would come from the line of David.

1)V.26 He refers to this as the Word of Salvation.

C)Theological term – Soteriology- The Doctrine of Salvation.

The Basic message is this – God sent His Son – Jesus into the World – be the Promised seed – Messiah.

Problem V.27 –

²⁷ For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled *them* in condemning *Him*. ²⁸ And though they found no cause for death *in Him*, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. **The religious leaders of Israel did the unthinkable and crucified the MESSIAH – but this is what the prophets predicted** ²⁹ Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took *Him* down from the tree and laid *Him* in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised Him from the dead. ³¹ He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. ³² And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. ³³ God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: **'You are My Son,**

Today I have begotten You.'

³⁴ And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David. ³⁵ Therefore He also says in another Psalm: 'You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.'

³⁶ "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; ³⁷ **but He whom God raised up saw no corruption.**

Notice He quotes in v.33 from Psalm 2:7

'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'

Now take note of this and the context – find Psalm 2:7 – CF Acts 13:32-38

See The cults use this phrase, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.' to say,

A) "Jesus was the first created Being. He's important, He's wonderful," a Jehovah's witness or a Mormon will say, "but He's not God.

B) He was created." He was begotten- Wait a minute. They're missing the point. **Today I have begotten You.'** What day is God referring to?

C) **The day of His Resurrection.** The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible – Paul gives us the context.

D) **Psalm 2, as quoted here by Paul, is not talking about the Incarnation, but about the Resurrection.**

1) Jesus is unique among all men by virtue of the fact that He rose again from the dead.

E) **It's not the womb David is speaking of—it's the tomb.**

This is a key understanding when you talk with people who deny the Deity of JESUS Jesus was created – not God.

A) **THEY use Psalm 2 to say Jesus was created by God –**

B) **Look at the context. Paul makes it clear it is talking about Jesus being raised from the dead.**

C) **The Leaders of Israel did not recognize Him – He wasn't what they expected – so they killed Him.**

D) **Had Him Crucified – unbeknownst to them – fulfilling the OT Scriptures – Messiah Crucified.**

1) **Become a Curse – take on the sin of Humanity.**

E) **But after THREE DAYS – God raised him up again.**

1) **Fulfilling the Promise made to fathers.**

First recorded sermon – Paul preaches – Jesus Crucified and risen from the dead!

A) **That was his message: Sought to know nothing – Jesus Christ and him crucified**

B) **V.38 is Key "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins;"**

C)Through this man – The Central message of the gospel is about this Man!

That through this man is forgiveness of sins!

A)Jesus came to forgive sins, - Man's greatest need is God's greatest deed.

B)The Central message of the gospel is forgiveness of sins and V.39 by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses.

C)Everyone who believes – not Some – everyone

1)You tonight – JUSTIFIED

Justified: Just as if you never sinned! –

A)Forgiven and forgotten – done away with – clean slate – Eraser board – Calculator

B)And note this V.39 – Justified from ALL THINGS

1)Not some things – I will forgive you of everything but this – ALL THINGS

C)GOOD NEWS – GREAT NEWS

D)BUT Paul ended his message with this warning:
40 Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you:

**41 'Behold, you despisers,
Marvel and perish!**

**For I work a work in your days,
A work which you will by no means believe,
Though one were to declare it to you.'**

Paul quotes from Habakkuk 1 in verse 41, says the work of salvation is so wonderful that there will be those who will not believe it.

A)They'll just say, "It's too good to be true."
Too easy – I need to do something!

B)The fact is, it's so good it has to be true!

1)Only an omnipotent God *could* provide total justification and complete forgiveness of sin.

C)And Only a loving God *would*.

D)God WARNS us because he LOVES us and does NOT want us to perish.

42 So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. 43 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.

Paul's message to these Jewish converts – guys continue in grace.

A)Don't fall back under that Performance based acceptance mentality.

B)So easy to do – our flesh – is prone to that

1)Want to feel like we earned it

C)Judaizers would come into the area – Circumcised to be saved –

"Can that which has begun in the Spirit be perfected by the flesh?" Galatians 3:3

Steer clear of the rules and regulations – don't fall back into that mode – continue in grace

Sufficiency of Grace

44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. **REVIVAL** 45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. 46 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.

47 For so the Lord has commanded us: **Paul's calling** 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.' "

48 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.

49 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. 50 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.
51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Here we see another balance the Bible gives between God's sovereignty and man's responsibility.

A) There were those who heard the message and rejected it – Paul says – marked themselves unworthy of Salvation

B) There were others who Heard it gladly – believed –

1) Marking themselves as those appointed unto Salvation

C) How do I know if I am appointed – Believe!

Those who go to Hell – go there of their own free Choice.

A) Those who opposed ended up stirring up the crowd against Paul and Barnabas

B) Just think what the Lord could have done there if they were willing!

C) Are you willing? Forgive / Justified today

1) Surrendered