

Acts 13:4-12 Ride the Wave

Over the years as a Pastor and even as a Christian - I have been asked questions about Vision

A)What is my Vision for the church or for my life

B)How do you discover your Vision ? -

C)For years I sort of felt this pressure of - I need to have a Fresh vision for the Church

D)The way that is discovered is I need to go to the MT top like Moses and hear a message from God

1)In turn deliver that to the Church

E)Undo Pressure on myself as a leader -

1)Sometimes questions - did I really hear from God? What if I was wrong?

2)What if that was me more than God.

So in the last 8-10 years my view of Vision and approach to vision has changed dramatically.

A)My approach to vision these days could be as simple as this- Discerning out what God is doing and how he is moving

B)And getting on board with it.

C)I love to use this analogy that sums up how I view and approach vision and getting direction from God

1)in my life personally / for church corporately

All of you who are surfers will understand this analogy

A)and if you have ever sat at the beach watching surfers - make sense to you too.

B)If you haven't ever watched surfers - go to the beach this week and sit for an hour and watch -

1)this will make sense to you

C)If you have ever surfed or watched surfers - this is what they do - they paddle out on their boards -

1)sit and watch - What are they watching for?

D)They are watching for how the waves are forming - where the Peak is

1)As they see the wave begin to form - they paddle over into position

E)Once they get into position and the wave starts to form -

1)they paddle to catch and then they let the wave propel them - THEY RIDE THE WAVE

That to me is how Vision works with the Lord

A)All of us are called to be surfers - in this sense

B)We are TO BE in the Ocean of this thing called the Kingdom of God in this world

C)All around us on a regular basis God is forming Waves -

Our job as believers is to be watching where God is forming the waves

A)Paddle into position and catch the wave -

B)Let God by his power propel us to be used for him in this world

1)When that happens it is Exciting - life changing - riding the wave that God has formed

C)But some believers are on the beach - just watching others catch the waves -

1)man that looks fun - I could never do that

D)GOD IS SAYING GET IN THE WATER - CHILD

1)Let me surprise you!

What in the world does that have to do with what were are studying today in Acts 13? Glad you asked.

A)I think what we see here in Acts 13 is a great picture of God forming a wave -

B)that his leaders in the church in Antioch are going paddle into position on and ride

C)Taking notes: I have 4 big ideas we are going to see in V.4-12

1st Big idea: God's plan for our lives will never unfold until we respond in obedience to his call. V.4

2nd Big idea: God often leads supernaturally in ways that start off very natural. V.4b

3rd Big idea: Look for open doors V.5-7 - Waves forming

4th Big idea: When God opens doors expect opposition. V.8-12

D)Unpack this today - start in V.1 for context

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. ⁴So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus

We saw in our last study - the start of the first great missionary movement in the book of Acts.

A)It happened when the leaders of the Church in Antioch were gathered together -

B)Noted last week they were ministering TO the Lord -

1)Worshipping the Lord - waiting on the Lord - waiting for a Wave to form -

that is when the Holy Spirit Spoke Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

A)So that time of ministering to the Lord resulted in a Calling - Barnabas and Saul - set apart

B)A confirmation - V.3 tells us after fasting and praying idea there is more fasting and praying - confirmation - they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

C)They sent them off - there was a Commissioning!

We see a natural progression in this

A)They are praying and waiting on the Lord - resulting on God speaking - Go send these two men

B)They laid hands on them - Going away party

C)There is a progression here - but the progression doesn't come to completion until we read in V.4 . ⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went

D)The ministry that God intended was not going to unfold until they were obedient to what God said.

1st Big idea: God's plan for our lives will never unfold until we respond in obedience to his call.

A)It is not uncommon for Followers of Jesus to be in a setting like this is or in a personal time of worship and waiting on the Lord -

B)There is a Calling that takes place - God speaks to your heart about something he wants you to do

1)Take a step of faith

C)And you might seek confirmation through others - Do you bear witness with this.

Me and the cohort - Wave was a stirring in my heart

A)called some friends - spoke to our leadership - confirmation and encouragement -

B)A wave was forming

C)But the ministry that God wanted to unfold wasn't going to happen until I stepped out and was obedient

1)Called Joe and a few of the other pastors God laid on my heart to be a part of this -

D)BEYOND IMAGINATION - Great ride - fruitful

E)Has God called and confirmed something in your Life - note that phrase again - ⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went

1)Stop delaying and procrastinating - Take a step of faith - GO

So They Went!

A)Notice the team that God is going to begin this new work through is small - 3 people they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus,

⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

B)Barnabas, Saul and John -also known as John Mark - INTERN learn more about him next week.

C)They went down to Seleucia/ Seleucia is like the port of San Diego - they - catch a boat and Sail to Cyprus

1)Cyprus is an Island in the Mediterranean Sea about 60 miles from Syria - which is where Antioch was located

D)The island of Cyprus is 150 miles long and 40 miles wide.

They arrive in Salamis - which is on the far NE end of the island

A)Salamis is the one of two major cities on the Island

B)the other is Paphos located in the far SW side of the Island.

Pics of Cyprus and Paphos

C)We have missionary's there - and a church there -

Why Cyprus? Beautiful spot?

A)Obvious the Lord led them there - and that no doubt would be true

B)But I think there were two things the Lord used to draw them there.

C)2nd Big idea: God often leads supernaturally in ways that start off as being very natural.

It was natural for them to go to Cyprus.

A)See there is a great connection between Cyprus and the work that God did in Antioch -

B)God birthed this great church in Antioch - growing - men saved -

1)people were becoming disciples

C)Where the followers of Jesus were first called Christians was in Cyprus

D)But remember how that work started? - Turn to Acts 11

The work in Antioch was sparked by this great persecution that had come upon the church at the hands of Saul of Tarsus

A)The Believers in Jerusalem were scattered - they went everywhere preaching Jesus - Notice V.19

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews.

B)Some of those who were scattered went to the island of Cyprus - they brought Jesus with them.

C)That is what you do right - you leave one place and you go to another place - you bring Jesus with you.

I have a friend name Tim Rodgers - brother in law of Phil M.

A)Tim and his family are missionaries in China - and Before that they were missionaries in Brazil

B) Tim is also black belt in Brazilian Jitsu - 6'2 245lbs of Solid muscle

C)When Tim moves to a country there are two things he does -

1)he opens a gym to start training people in Brazilian Jitsu

CC)And because Tim likes coffee he hangs out in coffee shops

D)After establishing himself in the city - he starts a Bible study

1)You know who the first people are who came to the Bible studies he started - people he met at the coffee house and the gyms.

E)Result in Brazil - 3 churches were planted - and God is using them in radical ways in China today.

1)He takes Jesus into his everyday life

So these believers flee to Cyprus and they bring Jesus with them

A)People in Cyprus are getting saved - and then we read in V.20 of chapter 11

²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus

B) Group of no name guys from Cyprus take the gospel to Antioch- where revival breaks out

C) The work there is so great the Apostles - say - we need to send Barnabas down there to encourage and disciple these new believers

So when the leaders in Antioch are being sent out on this first missions trip it is natural that the first place they want to go and visit is Cyprus

A) They had a connection there

B) When looking for God to form the wave - the wave can be a place it can be a person -

1) it can be a relationship

C) Where is the wave forming that is the question -

1) our job is when we see it we paddle into position - take the wave.

As I think about the way that God has worked in and through this church in the 34 years I have been a part of it -

A) 27 as Lead Pastor - I have seen the Lord do this over and over again in so many ways

B) Back in the late 1980's early 90's and into the 2,000's - there were two Waves that formed

1) One was in Eastern Europe - and the other was in Russia

C) In Eastern Europe it was through some relationships that Pastor Brian made with some guys there - we paddled out - small team 6 pp

1) Resulted in a number of churches being planted in Hungary and Yugo

D) In Russia it was through the open doors and relationships that God made there through George Bryson

The wave was forming and we paddled into position by sending countless teams there over and over again

A) I once took a team of 100 high school students from our church and one other Calvary - to Russia -

B) many trips to Hungary and Russia over the yrs

C) Road that wave for years - saw the Lord do so many things - helped plant a number of churches

D) To date there have been 33 churches planted out of CV -

1) doesn't count the 8-10 we helped with in Russia

E) It all started with a connection - relationships in those countries

In 1997 we sent John Randle out to Brandon Florida to plant a church - first of 18 church plants since I have been the Pastor here

A) Why Brandon? - The Higgins moved there. -

B) Charlie Campbell - took John's place on Staff - YA - graphics - school of ministry

C) Charlie worked in the surf industry - taken

some trips to CR - had a connection in Quepos -

1) Led a missions trip there - that resulted in a church getting planted

D) That would result in CV helping to plant 2 more churches being planted in CR.

1) One by Phil and Rebekah McKay - Phil was leading our YA group after Charlie

Phil had gone on one of the trips that Charlie led there - God stirred his heart for that country.

A) Even though Phil was as white as can be and spoke no Spanish -

B) Huge Step of faith - God did a great work there - church - property building

Years ago we had a family come to our church who had moved here from Zimbabwe

A) Can we get this kind of teaching in our country?

B) Never had a desire to go to Africa - but now there was this family and this need.

C) Invited us to come and do a Pastors training - expositional teaching

D) We ended up doing that for years - that led to more invitations - speaking at more conferences and taking teams to Uganda.

Today we are involved with two churches in NZ- How?

A) While doing ministry in Hungary - Met a guy who was teaching at the Bible college in Hungary.

B)Years later Mark moved to NZ to start a Bible college there

C)Planned a Pastor Conference - invited me to come and speak

D)A couple of months before going do teach at the conference -

1)I found out that Dave Heitman - who used to Pastor CC PL - now pastoring in NZ – Tauranga

He invites me to come speak at his church in Tauranga -when I am going to be out there.

A)This is a Wave forming - a connection

B)But ONE week before we are to go - Dave ends up resigning from the church - personal reasons - has to come home to the USA

C)I spoke at the church there when I was on the trip - the people were hurting -

1)the leaders asked if I could help them find a pastor. I told them I would do what I could

A few months later I am in Africa again speaking at a Conference and I meet a Pastor there from the USA - Doug Calhoun.

A)Faithfully Pastoring in Africa for 11 years - a great church - raised up an African to take over at the Pastor.

B)When I meet him he is praying - what is next ?- I told him about this opportunity in Tauranga NZ

1)Long story short - He is the Pastor there now - we support - doing a great job

C)That led to the Pastor of CC Auckland - reaching out to me - long time

1)Help us find a new Pastor - Retire - The Kelly's

Story after story like that - God working naturally - through relationships to do something supernatural

A)IMPACT LIVES FOR ETERNITY clear on the other side of the world.

B)To move a family living in Uganda Africa over 8,000 miles to Tauranga NZ.

C)A Wave was forming - in the form of a connection a relationship -

1)we paddled into position - God propelled

Why Cyprus - Connection to the guys who helped plant the church in Antioch

A)But there was another natural connection -

B)Barnabas - he was from there.

1)Recall we were first introduced to Barnabas back in Chapter 4 - turn

C)Church was growing rapidly 3,000 saved at the first preaching another 2,000 at the 2nd. -

1)After a month or so - Mega Church

D)Living communally out of necessity - People selling things and giving proceeds to help the needy.

³⁶ And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus, ³⁷ having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

E)Why did they go to Cyprus? Barnabas was from there -

1)so it was natural that he would want to take the gospel to his friends / family

We have seen God move in this way as well- that family Connection

A)Back in the early 2,000's Dave Anderson - home group leader

B)I am feeling called to go to MT Pleasant Texas and plant a church - family there.

C)We spent a year getting Dave ready - sent him out to plant

1)He did great Job - great church

D)While there he meets some people from Paris Tx - we would like to get a CC started here too.

1)Dave Calls me - Is there anyone you can send to Paris

A week or so later we are at family Camp and over lunch Christy Duff mentions -

A)"ever here of a need in Texas let us know I have family there

B)I mention to Jason - Dave's call - Jason is like Christy might want to go to Texas but I don't! - PRAY - GO CHECK IT OUT

C)The Duffs in up in Texas - great work - 7 years

God brings them back to Cali - now the church is looking for a pastor

A)Phil Mckay has just finished his assignment in CR - building built - national trained -

B)They go take the church in Paris

C)My Pt - the Wave that started all of that was Dave Andersen having a desire to go to MT pleasant to bring Jesus and the gospel to his family.

D)Story after story like that - God doing something that is supernatural that started very naturally.

God is wanting to move supernaturally through the natural connections you have in this life

A)There are Waves that are beginning to form in a relationship that God has brought into your life

B)Be aware of it - paddle into position and get ready to ride it

C)The wave might be you taking Jesus to your family - God does something in one of your kids

1)Brother in Law - sister

D)That leads us to consider the 3rd big idea: Look for open doors

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.

WHY The Synagogue? - Paul is a former Pharisee - Barnabas is a Levite -

A)Natural open door

B)This would become Paul's trend - every city - started with the Jews by going to the Synagogue

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. Romans 1:16

C)We could say Paul went to the place where people were seeking

Look for open doors - look for those who are seeking - interested in Spiritual things

A)That could be where the wave is forming - paddle into position

B)So they go throughout the Island city after city and Village after village - they are in the water

1)The Wave they see forming is a Synagogue - Open door

C)When they arrive in Paphos - another open door

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.

This time the wave that is forming - the open door that is presented is different

A) An audience with the Governor - the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. Man of influence called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.

B)Don't miss this: Paphos is the beautiful place - like SD a destination place -

C)People are wealthy there - here they get an audience with this guy Sergius Paulus - the Governor

D)Guy living in this beautiful place - man of power - possessions wealth - prominence - Still searching

Reminder to us - SD Beautiful place - great Wealth here in SD

A)People of Influence here - But there are people here who are hurting

B)San Diego is the Meth Capital of the US

C)A lot of the sex trafficking that takes places in the US has its origins here in SD

D)Church don't forget this: There are people all around us on a daily basis - who look happy - persona -

1)They look like they have it all together - when in reality they are hurting - **They need Jesus**

Let me ask you - Where's the open door in your world?

A)Your world means - where you live, - where you work, where you go to school, -

B)where you shop, - coffee - where you **work out,**

1)That's your world. - Sphere of Influence

C)Some of you work in the realm of Business - rubbing shoulders with professionals - -

1)a world I will never step into.

Others of you construction world - Kelly West - Worship Contractor

A)Great at building things - Me not so much - Dangerous with a hammer

B)You have a realm that God has uniquely placed you in -**THAT IS YOUR WORLD - YOUR SPHERE**

1)Take Jesus there - look for open doors

C)School - College - other students in that grind - dealing with those pressures and challenges

1)You can relate to them in a way that those of us who are no longer in that space can. -

D)that is your world - take Jesus w/ you there.

Open Door is forming Sergius Paulus wants to hear about Jesus.

A)Pause here and say this: In this account in Acts 13 - we see Barnabas and Paul catching waves -

B)moving throughout the Island

1)Bringing Jesus with them - but we are not told anything about the results of their Actions

C)We don't read of a revival breaking out - or 1,000's getting saved - we don't know what God did.

D)think that is on purpose - the Focus is not of the result - it is on their obedience -

1)their movements to walk through open doors

Sometimes we place way too much emphasis on the OUTCOME

A)God is interested in the Process

B)The Win for us is Results - seeing fruit - seeing people get saved - seeing God work

C)The WIN for GOD is seeing his people respond to his leadings

Big idea #4 When God opens a door Expect opposition ⁸But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith

A)Consider the nature of this opposition

B)Bar-Jesus - or Elymas this sorcerer dude withstood them

1)Withstood means to stand against - his goal is to turn Sergius Paulus away from the truth

C)God opens doors and Satan opposes -

1)He doesn't want to see people come to Jesus

1 Corinthians 16: "9 for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries."

D)There are many adversaries - but behind those adversaries is one force - Satan

Notice V.9 ⁹Then Saul, who also *is called Paul*, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰and 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?*

A)**The last line there is so interesting will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?**

B)Perverting the straight paths of the Lord

C)The Lord has made a straight pathway for sinners to be saved -

1)the **PATH LEADS THROUGH THE CROSS**

D)GOSPEL

Satan is always trying to pervert that straight path - to make a crooked path

A)Religion - Jesus is not enough - Jesus + something - works etc

B)Extremism- Fill the Void with fill in the blank - Possessions - pleasure

C)Here it is the Occult - Sorcery

Paul deals with this head on - Calls out Bar-Jesus

A)But notice it says - Paul being filled with the Holy Spirit

B)Can't fight a spiritual battle in our own strength

C)Be strong in the Lord in the Power of his might

D)Power that brought Jesus out of the grave is in us

1)Stand in that power - not our power

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.**

Notice it wasn't the miracle that caused Sergius Paulus to Believe

A)It was the teaching of the Word of God

B)The Word is powerful - Share it

C)Are you in the Water?

1)OR are you on the Beach

D)Not even at the Beach - so wrapped up in your own world - not in tune with the Lord

E)God wants to do a work in you - so he can do a work through you - Blessing to Partner

Some of you are afraid:

A)Just catch the wave -Kids look of the open door
Share Jesus - share testimony

B)The power is in the word

C)A straight path to Jesus -