

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
November 7, 2021
Acts 13:1-41 "Surrendering to God"

I. Introduction

Read: Isaiah 43:7

- † Last week we saw James (of James and John) killed by Herod – we saw Peter imprisoned and destined for the same fate...yet, the Lord miraculously delivered him...
- † And we saw Herod die after taking glory as the crowds cheered him as a god...
- † This week, chapter 13 changes the central focus of the church from Jerusalem to Antioch...
- † And the individual focus is shifting primarily to Saul and the ministry the Lord has for him.

II. Barnabas and Saul

A. Ministering to the Lord

Act 13:1-3 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

- † We see at the church in Antioch...it was wonderfully multi-cultural...
- † Barnabas was from Cyprus, Simeon and Lucius from North Africa, Manaen was Roman and Saul who was from Tarsus which is in South Central Turkey.
- † These guys (and I'm sure others with them) were prophets and teachers of the Word. And they were ministering to the Lord...
- † Often people come to the Lord asking for something...but these guys were ministering to the Lord. Here the Greek word means "public servant".
- † So, "Ministering" to the Lord can take many forms...we can minister to God by serving others – we can minister through seeking His will to walk in obedience - which is really living out our relationship with Him in all areas of our lives.
- † Often, however, people only associate "Ministering to the Lord" with church worship music.

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- † **We have never heard of a worship band in the New Testament although we are called to Psalms & hymns and spiritual songs...but that is not worship either – in and of itself.**
- † **True Worship and praise (remember that we are to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth – John 4:24) evolves from a heart loyal to God...**
- † **2Ch 16:9a** For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.
- † **Mat 6:21, 24a, 33** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. 33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- † **Ministering to the Lord, therefore involves submission to our Supreme Authority – Jesus.**
- † **Ministering to the Lord means presenting ourselves a living sacrifice and a willful surrender to God and His purposes, for His pleasure and for His glory alone.**
- † **Consequently, worship and praise should not occur only at church before the teaching of the Word...worship and praise should be our lifestyle!**
- † **And...as a side note to check our hearts: some Christians go to church for the worship experience and what they can get out of it...which is opposite of what it should be: it should be about what the Lord gets out of it.**
- † **I have heard Christians speak of their churches based upon how they feel when they leave...but maybe a better question to be asked is: is their church producing disciples that live their lives to minister to the Lord and share the gospel? ...or are they creating self-focused church attendees?**

B. The Holy Ghost Spoke...

(Look at v.2 again) Act 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."

- † **How did God share this message? Was it through prophecy? Was it something that God had laid on Saul and Barnabas' hearts? Was it the remembrance that Jesus and said that we are to be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the earth?**

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- † The truth is...we don't know. But in v. 3, what we do know is that they were wise enough to fast and pray and, in some way, have confirmation and peace that this was true before they laid hands on them and sent them...
- † And an interesting note...here the word "sent" in the Greek, means to release them to the leading of the Holy Spirit: NOT that they sent them.
- † The calling of a missionary is huge...there are those who are "sent" by the Holy Spirit, and there are those who simply "went" because it sounded like a good idea or because they were in some way convinced of man that they should go.

III. Beginning the Mission...

A. Cyprus

Act 13:4-5 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. 5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

- † Their ministry began in Salamis – a metropolitan setting (meaning lots of people) and the first place they went was to a Synagogue.
- † Paul always began with the Jews and then went to the gentiles after he was rejected...
- † **Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.
- † And, as a bit of an afterthought, Luke tells us that John was with them to minister (meaning serve) them as they ministered to others... this is Barnabas' nephew, John Mark.

Act 13:6-12 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus: 7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. 9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, 10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

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- † **Barnabas and Saul encounter a Roman procurator and a guy named Bar-Jesus which means, to us, son of Joshua. Bar-Jesus, also called Elymas, was a sorcerer and was opposed to the gospel message and was actively seeking to turn the deputy away from the faith.**
- † **Saul, with great grace (and my great sarcasm) said to him that he was a child of the devil and called on God to blind him for a season.**
- † **God honored that request and the deputy received Jesus based on what he had heard and then seen. The miraculous is meant to confirm God's Word!**

B. Antioch

Act 13:13-14 Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem. 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.

- † **Antioch is on the mainland – so to speak, and back in Saul's territory. As usual, they went to the synagogue on the sabbath...**

Act 13:15-39 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. 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. 18 And about the time of forty years suffered he their manners in the wilderness. 19 And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan, he divided their land to them by lot. 20 And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. 21 And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. 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. 23 Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: 24 When John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. 25 And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to loose. 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. 27 For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him. 28 And though they found no cause of death in him, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain. 29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid

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him in a sepulchre. 30 But God raised him from the dead: 31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. 32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, 33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee." 34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David. 35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, "Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." 36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: 37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption. 38 Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

- † **So Saul, upon being asked to speak, shares the gospel beginning with God's deliverance from Egypt and leading through David's life including several prophecies of the Messiah and then pointing it all to Jesus.**
- † **The Jews are very big on their heritage and thus, this makes complete sense. Along the way, though he tells us that David was a man after God's own heart...how could this be? He was an adulterer and a murderer...**
- † **The key to this statement, I believe, goes back to true worship – David's heart was undivided – he never went after idols, but remained loyal to God even when he was in his flesh!**
- † **Saul ends his discourse with a couple of key statements: 1) Through Jesus Christ we find forgiveness from sins, and 2) that all that believe are justified from all things!**
- † **Through Jesus, we are forgiven and our record is wiped clean...white as snow of all of our sins and unrighteousness! Amen!**

IV. Conclusion

Act 13:40-41 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.

- † **Paul ends his discourse with a warning: "Eternity is a really long time to be wrong"!**
- † **Beware that you don't let your pride and envy prevent you from receiving salvation.**
- † **Beware!**
- † **And a last thought...where is your heart towards God and is it loyal towards Jesus?**