

A TEACHING PRESENTATION ON ACTS OF THE APOSTLES CHAPTER 13:1-52. BY OKPARA PAUL N (EVANG./DEACON) ON DEC.13, 2020.

TOPIC: ACTS OF PAUL

TEXT: ACTS 13:1-52

MEMORY VERSE: ACTS 13: 38

LESSON AIM:

1. Trace the work of the great apostles among the Gentiles.
2. Note the spread of the church among the Gentiles.
3. Observe how Paul turned the world upside down by turning men from idol to God.
4. Prove that Gentiles are saved on the same terms as Jews.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Church in Antioch was blessed with strong prophets and teachers.
  - a. Barnabas
  - b. Simeon called Niger; a word meaning black.
  - c. Lucius from Cyrene, a city in North Africa.
  - d. Manaen, who had a close relationship with Herod the Great and a close companion of Herod Athipas.
  - e. Saul, a trained Jewish rabbi from Tarsus
2. The glue that held this diverse group from many land and backgrounds was the unifying influence of Christ.
3. They found the secret of togetherness.
4. During the worship services at Antioch the Holy Spirit spoke through His prophets instructing the church to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work of evangelism.
5. Did you notice that the spirit called them while they were actively involved in the Lord's work?
6. That's where God gets His leaders.

**Homiletical Suggestions**

1. Great care should be used in sending out missionaries. Let us note what the church did (verse 3)
  - a. This church fasted:- Fasting helps to humble the body which is a great help to spiritual victories. Matt. 4:1-2 and 2 Cor.11:27

- b. The church prayed.
- c. The church laid hand on them not to impart spiritual gift but an honorable discharge as teachers in Antioch, a committal to the grace of God and a pledge of fellowship. Gal. 2:9c.
- d. If you wish that God will steer you like a car you must be moving in his work.



Now Antioch served as a sponsoring congregation. Barnabas and Saul moved and their first stop was Cyprus the home town of Barnabas (Acts 4:36).

Note: There are other Christians who fled to Cyprus during the stoning of Stephen. Acts 11:19.

### **CYPRUS**

1. Cyprus had a good economy due to its large copper deposits.
2. The large Jewish population provided many Synagogues in which Saul preach.

3. Barnabas and Saul chose to go to Cyprus because they wanted to share the good news to his people.
  - a. In your home do your people know you as a Christian.
  - b. Barnabas showed that charity begins at home,
4. Did they use their personal funds or did they work along the way to earn funds for their up-keep?

### **SALAMIS**

1. At this city, it was Paul's practice to enter the Synagogue to preach (Rom. 1:16).
2. Beside the Synagogue generally had in attendance those who were called ***God fearers and Gentiles who believed in God.***
3. Here, they choose John Mark to go with them as their assistant.
4. Who was John Mark?
  - a. He was a cousin to Barnabas
  - b. He was the writer of the book of the bible— Gospel of Mark.
  - c. No training is adequate or complete without internship.

### **PAPHOS**

1. One episode of the Cyprus ministry is related in detail.
2. It centered around: (a) Bar-jesus and (b) Sergius Paulus.
  - a. Bar-jesus was a jew who claimed supernatural power with the help of evil spirit.
  - b. He was a false prophet and adviser to Sergius Paulus

### **SORCERY**

1. This is being practiced among men and women in the Jewish times.
2. They view them as specially powerful.
3. Their prophet could foretell the future.
4. His significance of the confrontation is probably linked to the miracles done by the first century Christians.
5. Through such confrontation, the church was able to distance itself from the charges of sorcery.
6. Jesus was called Beelzebub (Lk. 11:14f); the same kinds of charges would be brought against His followers.

### **SERGIUS PAULUS**

1. He was the chief Roman officials in Cyprus.
2. He desired that Barnabas and Saul come and speak the word to him.
3. But his magician, Bar-jesus withstood him from the faith.
4. Paul rebuked him in the sternest terms.
  - a. He called him a child of the devil
  - b. Full of deceit and
  - c. Enemy of what is right.
  - d. The hand of God would be upon you causing you to be blind for a season. (13:11b)
  - e. The blindness was temporary just designed to turn the magician from his evil ways.
5. Why was Paul so fierce in his attack on bar-jesus? He was concerned about another person.
6. Sergius Paulus responses
  - a. He was **astonished**. The miracle of blindness on his adviser opened his eyes.
  - b. He was also astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.
  - c. He **believed**. He became a Christian. The comprehensive word "**believed**" stands for all that is involved in becoming a Christian.

#### **AT PERGA**

1. The leadership of the group changed as indicated in the phrase: Paul and his company; previously Barnabas appeared first.
2. It was here that John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem.
3. Luke did not tell us what prompted the action but there are several possibilities.
  - a. Homesickness
  - b. Resented leadership change
  - c. Gentile evangelism unaccepted
  - d. Not a finisher
  - e. Inflexible
  - f. Difficulty and danger of travel
4. Not much was said because they sailed to Antioch in Pisidia.

#### **AT ANTIOCH**

1. In verse 14b, they came to Antioch went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day as usual.
  2. Here the first sermon of Paul delivered. It was the usual synagogue service to read some scriptural selections and after that appoints someone to present a sermon.
  3. Paul stood up with a very high zeal greeted and motioned his hand to speak:
    - a. He rehearsed Israel's history (verses 17-22)
      - *God chose Israel and developed them into a nation in Egypt.*
      - *He delivered them from Egypt by his mighty hand.*
      - *He sustained and endured them in the wilderness 40 years.*
      - *God dispossessed seven nations (Deut.7:1) in Canaan and gave them over to our fathers*
      - *He raised up judges*
      - *He gave them King Saul when they begged for a king.*
      - *He deposed Saul and put David as king.*
    - b. God has sent you a Saviour, Jesus Christ (23-37).
      - *John prepared his way for our people*
      - *By instructing them to repent and be baptized*
      - *By making clear that He was not the savior killed him.*
    - c. Jerusalem rulers did not acknowledge Jesus
      - *As Saviour*
      - *Even though they read him in the prophets every Sabbath.*
      - *By condemning him, they fulfilled the very prophecies they read.*
      - *Though they could find no ground for passing a sentence of death, they begged Pilate to execute him.*
      - *He was laid in the tomb*
- But:
- ✓ *God raised him from the dead.*
  - ✓ *Following the coming back to life again*
  - ✓ *Christ appeared many times to his followers who bear witnesses that He lives.*

- ✓ *No surprise, for God promised in the Old Testament (Psa. 2:7, Isa.55:3, Psa. 16:10) that He would raise Him before His body decayed.*
- ✓ *His promise was not to David, for he died, was buried, and his body did in fact decayed.*

### **MORE ENCOURAGEMENT**

1. Paul in his sermon has
  - a. Rehearsed the history of the Jews and
  - b. Told them the exciting news that god has sent them a savior Jesus Christ but you :
    - ❖ *Are offered forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ.*
    - ❖ *Who died to set us free from sin.*
    - ❖ *The condition for receiving this right standing with God is to believe on Jesus, with obedience such believing implies:*
      - i. *The forgiveness of Jesus is complete.*
      - ii. *Unlike what the Law of Moses offers.*
      - iii. *When Christ forgives sin it is buried and forgotten forever.*
      - iv. *He will never bring forgiven sins again.*
      - v. *The Law of Moses could not offer a complete and permanent forgiveness.*

### **CONCLUSION**

1. Paul's message of encouragement sounds like a warning.
2. That there are dangers for not receiving the good news.
3. That they might bring doom upon themselves.
4. He reminded them of the Old Testament prophecy (Habb.1:5).
5. Why did Paul recite the history of Israel?
  - a. To gain attention. The Jews were always happy to hear about their roots.
  - b. To establish a common ground, showing he accepted the Old Testament.
  - c. To keep his purpose out of view temporarily.

THANKS AND GOD BLESS YOU, AMEN