

Subject	7 Lessons from Acts 13	4413
		Acts 13
Title	7 Lessons from Acts 13	
Proposition	To make a study of seven lessons found in Acts 13.	
Objective	So that we might appreciate these lessons and allow them to be used in our daily lives to help us bring glory to the Lord.	

7 Lessons from Acts 13

Introduction:

1. **This chapter presents Paul's first missionary journey.**
2. **The great Antioch church sends Barnabas and Saul out into other fields, even though there was much to be done in the city of Antioch.**
3. **Early on there was a confrontation with one who was opposing the preaching of Barnabas and Saul and Saul put a stop to his interference immediately by the power of the Holy Spirit (9-11).**
4. **After this incident, Saul is referred to as Paul and he seems to be considered by Luke the LEADER and Barnabas is mentioned as his companion.**
5. **John Mark, at this point, turns back to Jerusalem.**
6. **Verse 15 tells of a practice and customary approach which must have been repeated so many times.**
 - 1) **Paul would go to the synagogue and when asked if he had a word of exhortation, Paul would preach Christ to the assembled Jews.**
 - 2) **In these synagogues he would have a good starting place for preaching Christ in that he would be talking to people whose religion he knew exceptionally well.**
 - 3) **He would be speaking to those who believed in the one True God;**
 - 4) **He could refer to the prophecies of the Messiah found in the Old Testament Scriptures and would be understood in making those references.**
7. **Paul was highly motivated in his preaching because his message was one of GLAD TIDINGS (v. 32) about the FORGIVENESS OF SINS (v. 38).**
8. **At Antioch of Pisidia, the Gentiles also were interested in hearing Paul's glad tidings.**
 - 1) **The Sabbath day following the initial message found an immense crowd of almost the entire city coming to hear Paul's message.**
 - 2) **The Jews spoke against what Paul preached and Paul and Barnabas turned to teaching the Gentiles who had assembled.**
 - 3) **Many of them believed.**
 - 4) **Because of the opposition of the Jews, Paul and Barnabas "shook off the dust of their feet against them," and moved on to Iconium.**

DISCUSSION: Acts 13 Helps me in that it—

I. Shows a Wonderful 1st Century Separation (3).

Acts 13:3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

1. This was the response of the Antioch brethren to the Holy Spirit's charge: **SEPARATE ME BARNABAS AND SAUL.**
2. There was a kind of **CLOSENESS** between Barnabas and Paul and the brethren at Antioch.
 - 1) There are listed the names of **FIVE** who served as prophets and teachers for this great church.
 - 2) When men work together with a local congregation of God's people, a closeness generally develops as they share so many important aspects of spreading the gospel message.
 - 3) There was much to do in a city of ½ million souls.
 - 4) They would have become well acquainted and grown to love one another.
3. **NOW**, the Holy Spirit sends a **DIRECT** message that it is time for Saul and Barnabas to leave—to evangelize in other places.
4. That announcement would have had a strong impact upon all of the church at Antioch.
 - 1) There would be an element of sadness, perhaps.
 - 2) There would also be an acknowledgement that this is the very thing that Saul and Barnabas needed to do.
 - 3) The desire of this great church was to be effective in getting out a saving message to the lost.
 - 4) They accepted the responsibility of sending these men into the mission field.
 - 5) How would they send them on their way?
 - 6) How would they **SEPARATE** from these two servants?
5. Verse 3 tells us the answer:
 - 1) Fasting, praying, and laying hands on Barnabas and Saul was the means used to **SEPARATE** them.
 - 2) The whole congregation is not actually mentioned here, but surely the use of the word **SEPARATE** implies the inclusion of the whole body.
 - 3) On this occasion of sending out missionaries these Christians humbled themselves through fasting and asked for God's guidance through prayer.
 - 4) The laying on of hands seems to be an expression of their **unity of purpose with Paul and Barnabas.**
6. What an encouragement it would be to Paul and Barnabas to have the congregation at Antioch supporting them **ONE HUNDRED PERCENT.**
7. The kinds of things that Jason is leading us in doing with regard to our support of evangelism efforts is just the very thing we read about in Acts 13.

Acts 13 Helps me in that it—

II. DESCRIBES one of the contacts made by Paul & Barnabas (7).

Acts 13:7 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.

1. **PRUDENT** is from the word *sunetos*, which means **intelligent, wise, learned, having understanding and quick and correct perceptions.**
 - King David, at a very young age, was also described as being prudent (1 Sam 16:18).

- The prudent man does not believe blindly— Proverbs 14:15 *The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.*
 - The prudent man is able to receive reproof properly— Proverbs 15:5 *A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.*
 - A prudent man gets knowledge (Prov 18:15).
 - A prudent man is on the lookout for evil and stays away from it (Prov 22:3).
 - God pronounced WOE upon the man who **only** THINKS himself to be prudent (Isa 5:21).
 - A prudent man will understand the way of the Lord (Hos 14:9).
 - A prudent man will sometimes KEEP SILENT (Amos 5:4-15).
2. **ONE OF THE ABSOLUTE FINEST WAYS** any man could ever demonstrate his prudence was demonstrated by Sergius Pauls here, when he **DESIRED** to hear the word of God (7), and believed (v. 12).
3. Whenever you and I come across a **PRUDENT** man like Sergius Paulus, we are **WISE to assume that he is interested in the truth of God's word.**
- 1) And actually, isn't that a worthwhile way to **VIEW every single person we meet.**
 - 2) Let's just assume that this person is **PRUDENT** until he/she proves not to be prudent.

Acts 13 Helps me in that it—

III. SETS BEFORE ME one of the ABSOLUTE WORST acts anyone could ever do (8).

Acts 13:8 *But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.*

1. Surely this is one of the worst things anyone could ever do when we place **ETERNITY** on the **BALANCES.**
 - 1) The task that Elymas had set his evil mind to accomplishing was to fight against God.
 - 2) His method was to keep the truth about God and salvation from the heart of this inquiring soul.
 - 3) This is exactly what Satan would want Elymas to be doing.
 - 4) Whenever people **TODAY** do this despicable act, they are following Satan and if they do not repent, they will follow Satan to a **DEVIL'S HELL.**
2. Notice what Saul charged Elymas with doing: **WILT THOU NOT CEASE TO PERVERT THE RIGHT WAYS OF THE Lord?**
 - 1) The ways of God are **RIGHT.**
 - 2) Whoever it is who twists God's Word to make it say what it does **NOT** say, deserves the title that Saul gave Elymas: **THOU CHILD OF THE DEVIL, THOU ENEMY OF ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS (v. 10).**
3. Brethren, there is an emphasis within God's word that perversion of the truth is a horrible sin and you and I need to recognize it for what it is.
4. We must oppose **ALL FALSE TEACHING** with every ability God has given us.

5. In the balance are precious lost souls whom Jesus died for, but who, being deceived, do not receive the benefit!
6. It is indeed a serious matter when false teachers do their eternal damage!
7. Let's consider Paul's excellent example here: Elymas could not leave the presence of Paul without KNOWING that the thing he was doing was WRONG, seriously WRONG, and needed to be stopped!

Acts 13 Helps me in that it—

IV. Suggests the VALUE of knowing to whom you are speaking God's Word (16ff).

1. Whenever we are given the opportunity to speak about the gospel of Christ, do we think about the particular audience to which we are speaking?
2. Paul did not give the same sermon here that he later gave to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17).
 - 1) Here is Paul in a Jewish synagogue.
 - 2) The only ones assembled are quite familiar with the Law of Moses.
 - 3) They knew full well about how they are the chosen nation of Jehovah God.
 - 4) So many things would be redundant for Paul to begin preaching about in this synagogue situation.
 - 5) Paul talked here about Jewish history and how God's plan for redeeming men had been working through the history of the Jews.
3. As we go about the task of teaching the lost, does it not make sense that the more we can know about those with whom we study the Bible, the better success we should have?
4. Careful thought and consideration should be given to teaching some lost soul.
 - 1) How familiar are they with the Bible?
 - 2) Is it only a book collecting dust on a table at home?
 - 3) How can I help this person use the knowledge they already have about God to guide them into an acknowledgement that they need to know more?

Acts 13 Helps me in that it—

V. Raises a Question Regarding One of the Great Bible Characters (22).

Acts 13:22 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.

1. Knowing what David did in 2 Samuel 11, how can Paul repeat the statement about David being a man after God's own heart? *Paul is NOT setting David before this synagogue of Jews as THE PERFECT example to follow!*
2. BUT, what qualities did David possess which fit the description?
 - 1) In Paul's sermon, the main point is that David would be a different sort of king than King Saul had been.
 - 2) In contrast to the rebellion of Saul, David would be a king who would not rebel.
 - 3) David would make the will of God the great rule and law of his reign.

- 4) There was a strong desire in David's heart to have a close fellowship with God-- 2 Samuel 7:2 That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.
- 5) When David did sin and it was pointed out to him that he had sinned against God, he repented (2 Sam 12:13-14).
- 6) David did indeed sin and made many mistakes, but being separated from God by sin was not anything that appealed to him.
- 7) On one occasion David was unwilling to receive free of charge an offering that he would in turn offer to God—1 Sam 24.24.
- 8) To read and study the many psalms written by David will be evidence enough that David was a man after God's own heart.

Acts 13 Helps me in that it—

VI. We find Paul was courageous and BOLD enough to deliver the NEEDED MESSAGE (38-39)

Acts 13:38-39 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.

1. Sometimes TODAY, preachers try to AVOID hurting the feelings of people to the extent that they leave certain subjects UNTOUCHED.
2. NOT Paul!
3. These Jews NEEDED to receive Jesus Christ and His Law and put aside the Law of Moses IF they were to be saved.
4. That is the very thing Paul told them!
5. He told them to BEWARE— Acts 13:40 Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;
 - 1) It might be that they would be tempted NOT TO BELIEVE his message.
 - 2) Not to believe his message would be disastrous to them, so he gave the strong warning: BEWARE!
6. There will likely be times when we have opportunity to tell some lost soul what they truly need to hear.
 - 1) Will we just put it aside and wait for another opportunity?
 - 2) Or will we recognize that this might be the ONLY opportunity and do as Paul did here?

Acts 13 Helps me in that it—

VII. Teaches me that, UNFORTUNATELY, there sometimes comes a time to SHAKE OFF THE DUST (51).

Acts 13:51 But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium.

1. There comes a time when it is necessary to shake of the dust.

2. **When Paul and Barnabas did this, they were following the Lord's teaching in Luke 9:5** **And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.**
3. **I believe we should exercise great caution in not coming to this step too soon.**
4. **BUT, some people will reject the saving message and the messengers will have to go on to others to make it available to them.**
5. **In strong contrast to the Muslims who would like to FORCE people to become Muslims who have no desire to do so, Jesus teaches us that men must decide for themselves!**
 - 1) **In fact, the Lord even discourages people coming to Him who are not fully committed.**
 - 2) **3X in Luke 14 Jesus says: YE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.**

Conclusion:

1. **Acts 13 is a great chapter!**
2. **It is an exciting chapter because here we have a growing and active church caring about lost souls in other places.**
3. **What a great example these Christians at Antioch set for us.**
4. **Let's seek to learn lessons from our History Book!**