

**"GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE –
PAUL'S FIRST
MISSIONARY JOURNEY!"**

**(SLIDE #1) "GREAT EVENTS OF
THE BIBLE #82 -- PAUL'S FIRST
MISSIONARY JOURNEY!"**

Introduction:

- A. **(Slide #2)** Last Sunday Morning We Saw The Phenomenal Conversion Of The Former Gladiator Against Christianity, Saul Of Tarsus; That Night We Saw The Transformational Event At The House Of Cornelius When Gentiles Were Invited To Be Members Of The Body Of Christ!
 - 1. After God used Peter to open the doors of the Church to the Gentiles, we will switch back in our studies to Saul who will now be known as the great Apostle Paul.
 - a. Peter had a "lot of explaining to do" to the Apostles, elders, and Jewish Christians when he returned to Jerusalem -- Ac. 11:1
 - b. First, they "contended" with him! This was a continual argument against him! Ac. 11:2
 - c. Why were they so "fired up?" They were not as concerned about him baptizing the Gentiles as staying with, fellowshiping with, and eating with them! Ac. 11:3
 - d. Peter told of his trance, Cornelius' vision, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon the Gentiles at Cornelius' house! Ac. 11:4-17
 - e. This seemed to appease the Jews; they rejoiced that Gentiles now had his privilege! Ac. 11:18
 - 2. Saul was given the mission by the Lord to take the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- B. **(►)** The Scattered Christians Traveled As Far As Antioch; The Church At Jerusalem Sent Barnabas To Antioch To Encourage The Brethren And To Preach The Gospel To Other Sinners -- Many Responded. Afterward Barnabas Traveled To Tarsus To Enlist Saul As His Co-Worker They Labored With The Church At Antioch For A Year! Ac. 11:19-26
- C. **(Slide #3)** When A Famine Arose In Judea, The Brethren In Antioch Collected Funds And Sent Them To Jerusalem By The Hand Of Barnabas And Saul. Ac. 11:27-29
- D. **(►)** After Delivering Those Benevolent Funds, Barnabas And Paul Returned To Antioch Of Syria. They Brought John Mark Back With Them From Jerusalem. 12:24,25

I. (Slide #4) The Impetus For The First Missionary Journey -- The Holy Spirit Called Upon The Prophets At Antioch To Send Barnabas And Saul On A Mission Trip. Ac. 13:1-3

A. Text: “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. ²As 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.’ ³Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.”

B. (►) The Church At Antioch Was An Abundantly Blessed Congregation!

1. It was in a very important and large city, the capital of Syria. It was a MAJOR city that rivaled Alexandria, Egypt as the chief city of the Near East.
2. It's history:
 - a. It was the first congregation of the Lord's Church established among the Gentiles. Ac. 11:20,21
 - b. It was here that the disciples of Jesus were first called “Christians.” Ac. 11:26
 - c. It was a congregation that had tremendous influence and impact upon the world!
 - d. Its makeup was so diverse -- yet, they exhibited the love of Christ as they accepted one another, respected each other's abilities and talents, and above all, they wanted to see the Lord's work thrive, prosper, and spread!

C. (►) The Holy Spirit's Command And Call. 2,3

1. God had a plan for Saul; it is now being implemented!
2. The Holy Spirit was the impetus for these prophets and teachers to send Barnabas and Saul on this Missionary Journey -- to teach the Gospel, to baptize sinners into Christ, and to establish congregations.

II. (Slide #5) Their First Work On This Trip -- Preaching And Opposition On The Island Of Cyprus. Ac. 13:4-12

A. Text: “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as *their* assistant. ⁶Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name *was* Bar-Jesus, ⁷who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul

away from the faith. 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? ¹¹And 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. ¹²Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.”

- B. **(Slide #6)** They left (►) Antioch of Syria, traveled west to the seacoast city of (►) Seleucia, and there they embarked on a ship.

- C. **(Slide #7)** From Seleucia They Sailed West To The Island Of (►) Cyprus.
 - 1. Why might they go to Cyprus first?
 - a. It was a well-used travel route to Asia Minor.
 - b. But there is a much more personal reason -- Barnabas was from the island of Cyprus -- he wanted his own people to hear the Gospel and to respond to It!

 - 2. **(Slide #8)** They first preached in **(Slide #9)** (►) **Salamis** on the eastern side of the island. 5
 - a. They entered the synagogues of the Jews.
 - 1. A synagogue had to consist of at least 10 Jews.
 - 2. This suggests that the population of the Jews in Salamis was quite large.
 - b. Barnabas and Saul taught the word of God in those synagogues; John Mark [the author of the Gospel of Mark] was their assistant.

 - 3. **(Slide #10)** After traveling across the island, about 150 miles, they came to **(Slide #11)** (►) **Paphos**. 6
 - a. Immediately they ran into an antagonist -- a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus. 6
 - 1. This is an amazing concoction within one man!
 - a. He was a Jew.
 - b. However, he was a Jewish sorcerer!
 - 1. What is amazing about his profession is that the Law of Moses so strongly condemned sorcery!
 - 2. He seems to be a renegade Jew!
 - 3. The word describing Bar-Jesus is not the typical used for sorcerer “farmakiva” in Greek describing one used drugs and potions and claimed to cast spells and to use enchantments; it is the Greek word “mavgon” from “mavgo~” which means “a magician.”

- a. This word is used only twice in the LXX in Dan. 2:2,10 describing “astrologers.” It is the same word describing the “magi” or “wise men” who came from the East at the birth of Jesus. Mt. 2:1,7,16 (They were men who “read the stars.”)
 - b. Thus, Bar-Jesus claimed to have guidance from the stars and used this claim to convince people that he was from God; therefore, he lured the people to listen to and to follow him.
2. Meaning of his names:
 - a. Bar-Jesus -- son of Jesus (or Joshua).
 - b. Elymas -- this is an Arabic name meaning “a wise man.”
3. This man had the ear of the Roman ruler; Bar-Jesus was his own attendant!
 - a. Likely this governor had aligned himself with Bar-Jesus for protection from spirits.
 - b. Supposedly he would give guidance and protection to the island.
- b. The proconsul, Sergius Paulus, called for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the Word of God. 7
 1. Sergius Paulus was the proconsul -- the administrator of the island of Cyprus who resided in Paphos.
 2. This man was an eager hearer.
- c. Bar-Jesus immediately withstood Barnabas and Saul -- his goal -- to turn this seeking ruler away from the Gospel that Barnabas and Saul preached and to keep this man under his own control.
- d. **Saul, now for the first time and hereafter identified as Paul**, sternly condemned this evil man and his wicked intentions. 9-11
 1. “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? ¹¹And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord *is* upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time.’
 2. During all of his early life and actions among the Jews he was known only as Saul; however, now as he begins his labors among the Gentiles he is known as Paul.
 - a. From this point Paul seems to be the leader in his work with Barnabas.
 - c. And, whereas before these companions were known as “Barnabas and Saul,” they are hereafter known as “Paul and Barnabas.”
 3. The miraculous gift of “discerning of spirits” is clearly seen in this situation -- the Holy Spirit informed Paul of the evil heart and intent of this magician. This gift was a protective gift that helped God’s people know the danger of false teachers! I Cor. 12:10

4. His charges and accusations against Elymas: 10
 - a. Full of all deceit -- “dovlou” He was a trickster; this word expresses the idea of “catching with bait!” He put the bait of false doctrine out there hoping to attract people to follow him.
 - b. Full of all fraud -- “rJa/diourgiva~” He was a propagater of deceptions!
 - c. Son of the devil -- he was a liar, just like his father, the Devil! Jn. 8:44
 - d. Enemy of all righteousness -- He had no concern about being honest in his dealings with his fellowman; he saw his deception as a way for personal gain and fame!
 - e. Perverted of the straight ways of the Lord -- he was leading people right away from God and toward Hell!
- f. Paul, speaking through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, placed a condemnation upon this wicked false teacher! 11
 1. The hand of the Lord is upon you! God is going to punish you for your wickedness and opposition to His Will!
 2. You will be blinded and not see the sun for a time!
 3. IMMEDIATELY a dimness (like what cataracts do to eyesight) and darkness fell upon him; he could not move around unless others led him by the hand!!!!
- g. The proconsul, seeing these amazing events, believed the Gospel taught by Paul and Barnabas! He was astonished at the teaching about Christ! 12

III. (Slide #12) They Came To Asia Minor And Pamphylia; John Mark Left The Mission Trip. 13:13

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

B. (Slide #13) **MAP. (►)** The Missionary Entourage Arrived In Perga Of Pamphylia; From There, John Mark Left The Other Missionaries. The Text Simply Informs That John (John Mark) Left Them And Returned To Jerusalem.

1. Why did John Mark leave? No reason is given for his departure. One might almost overlook this simply stated fact if it were not for more information that is given later.
2. Possible reasons:
 - a. The territory in Pamphylia where they were heading was known to be filled with robbers. Therefore, some have speculated that he became afraid of impending peril.
 - b. Perhaps he just got homesick.
 - c. He may not have been up to the rigorous work and the vicious opposition that came with such mission efforts.

- d. One of my missionary friends suggested that it might have been because he had digestive tract problems!!! Anyone who has gone to other cultures may have at times experiences stomach issues from food or bacteria!
 - e. Or, it may have been that John Mark had been raised in a comfortable lifestyle and was not emotionally prepared for the physical and emotional toll that travel and missionary work could bring upon a person.
 1. Ac. 12:1-17 gives some insight into his upbringing.
 2. This passage gives insight into John Mark's mother's home.
 - a. Courtyard
 - b. Iron gate
 - c. Servants
 3. They were also a spiritually minded family living in a large city, Jerusalem.
 - a. They lived in Jerusalem.
 - b. They were a leading family in Jerusalem. Col. 4:10
 - c. Barnabas was a close relative.
 4. These facts suggest that John likely had a comfortable lifestyle, with lots of religious training, and lots of exposure to Church leaders.
3. It is not surprising at all that Paul and Barnabas took John Mark initially!
 - a. His mother's godliness provided wonderful opportunities for knowing the Will of God.
 1. He was Mary's son. 12:12
 2. Peter called Mark his "son in the faith." I Pet. 5:13
 - b. His kinship with Barnabas -- he was either a cousin or nephew of Barnabas. Col. 4:10
 - c. The association with Christians was a great encouragement and example for him.
 - d. The opportunity to associate with the Apostles and other dynamic Christians gave him amazing heroes to imitate!
 - e. So, here was a young man who appeared to be VERY STRONG, BUT.....when he got into the day to day grind of ministry and mission work, he returned home.
 4. He left Paul and Barnabas and likely returned to Jerusalem with a heart loaded with guilt!
 - a. Imagine how he must have felt facing his mother and the brethren.
 - b. Imagine the questions he had to answer.
 - c. And he was seen by some with the following label, "Quitter!"
 5. Further insight is given after the First Missionary Journey ended and Paul and Barnabas considered a Second Missionary Journey.

IV. (Slide #14) The Strong Opposition Of The Jews At Antioch Of Pisidia. Ac. 13:14-45

- A. Text: “But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. ¹⁵And 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.’ ¹⁶Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, ‘Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: ¹⁷The 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. ¹⁸Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. ¹⁹And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment. ²⁰After that He gave *them* judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. ²¹And 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. ²²And 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.*’ ²³From this man’s seed, according to *the* promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus—²⁴after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵And 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.’ ²⁶Men *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. ²⁷For 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*. ²⁸And though they found no cause for death *in Him*, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. ²⁹Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took *Him* down from the tree and laid *Him* in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised Him from the dead. ³¹He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people. ³²And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers. ³³God 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.*’ ³⁴And 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.*’ ³⁵Therefore He also says in another Psalm: ‘*You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*’ ³⁶For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; ³⁷but He whom God raised up saw no corruption. ³⁸Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; ³⁹and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. ⁴⁰Beware 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.*’ ⁴²So when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. ⁴³Now

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. ⁴⁴On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. ⁴⁵But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. ⁴⁶Then 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. ⁴⁷For so the Lord has commanded us: *'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'* ' ⁴⁸Now 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. ⁴⁹And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. ⁵⁰But 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. ⁵¹But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit."

B. (Slide #15) Departing Perga, They Came To (►) Antioch Of Pisidia, And Entering The Synagogue, They Preached Jesus. 14

1. The ruler of the synagogue read from the Scripture; then he asked if anyone wanted to expound upon it.
2. Paul immediately rose and began to give a history of God's dealings with the Jewish nation. 15,16
 - a. Observe that Paul did not just walk in and take over; when invited to speak, he was ready to do so!
 - b. This synagogue was comprised of many Jews and some proselytes -- Verse 43 "many of the Jews and devout proselytes."
3. Paul reminded them of God's blessings to the Israelites -- from Egypt to John the Baptizer. 17-25
4. He then addressed the Jews, "Descendants of Abraham, God has sent the precious Gospel to us, the Jews first!" 26
5. He then declared that the Jews had killed Jesus; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus buried His Body God raised Him from the dead! 27-
 - a. Paul affirmed that Jesus IS the Messiah who provides hope to sinners! 38-39
 - b. He cautioned these people about the danger of being unbelievers! 40,41

C. **Reactions To Paul's Sermon.** 42-52

1. The Jews departed the synagogue; the Gentiles asked Paul to preach those things to them the next Sabbath day. 42
2. Many of the Jews and proselytes (converts; likely this referred to Gentiles) followed closely to Paul and Barnabas that week, wanting to hear more. Paul and Barnabas urged them to continue in the grace of God! 43
3. On the next Sabbath Day, almost everyone in Antioch of Pisidia assembled to hear the Gospel preached! 44
4. And then the trouble started! When the Jewish leaders saw the multitudes gathered together, they were incensed by their jealousy. They realized that they were “losing their grip” upon the people and that the Gospel Message was being accepted by the multitudes. Therefore, they blasphemed and spoke against the things that Paul preached. 45
5. Thus Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly 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.”** 46
 - a. WHY was it necessary? It was in God's plan. Rom. 1:16
 - b. However, since these Jews rejected the Gospel, the missionaries declared that they would focus their ministry upon the Gentiles!
 1. This was not TOTAL avoidance of Jews.
 2. They still went into the Jewish synagogues when they entered many towns.
 - a. 14:1 Iconium
 - b. 17:1 Thessalonica
 - c. 17:10 Berea
 - d. 17:17 Athens
 - e. 18:4 Corinth
 - f. 18:19 Ephesus
 3. You see Paul continuing to take the Gospel to “the Jew first and also for the Greek.” Rom. 1:16
 - c. This elated the Gentiles; they continued to glorify the Word of God; those who were disposed to do so, believed and obeyed the Gospel! 48
6. The Word spread like wildfire throughout that region! 49
7. However, the Jews stirred up honorable or prominent women who were devout worshipers along with some of the most influential men in the city; they instigated persecution against Paul and Barnabas and ran them out of Antioch! 50
8. Paul and Barnabas “shook the dust off their feet on them;” this action indicates judgment upon unbelievers. 51

9. The disciples were continually filled with joy; they were elated that the Gospel was progressing.

V. (Slide #16) Opponents Poisoned The Minds Of People In Iconium! Ac. 14:1-7

- A. Text: “Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. ²But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. ³Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ⁴But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles. ⁵And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, ⁶they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. ⁷And they were preaching the gospel there.”
- B. (Slide #17) Having Been Driven From Antioch, Paul And Barnabas Went To (►) Iconium.
- C. As In Other Communities, They Began Their Preaching In The Jewish Synagogue; As They Continued To Preach, A Great Multitude Of Jews And Gentiles Believed The Gospel! 1
- D. Unbelieving Jews Began To Cause Great Confusion In The Minds Of The Gentiles; They Embittered Them Or “Poisoned Their Minds” Against Paul And Barnabas! 2
- E. Paul And Barnabas Remained There A Long Time Teaching The Word; And Performing Miracles That Confirmed The Validity Of Their Message. 3
- F. The City Became Totally Divided -- Some, In Unbelief, Sided With The Jewish Leaders; Others, Believing The Gospel, Sided With Paul And Barnabas. 4. Remember That Christ Promised That The Gospel Would Cause Division. Mt. 10:34-36; Lk. 12:51-53

- G. A Group Of Jews And Gentiles Formed An Alliance Determined To Shamefully Mistreat Or Abuse The Preachers And To Stone Them. 5
 - 1. Obviously they hated Paul and Barnabas and the Gospel they preached.
 - 2. Ultimately the unbelievers conspired to humiliate and to stone the missionaries.
 - 3. However, they were not stoned here; In II Cor. 11:25 Paul said that he was stoned ONCE!
- H. When Paul And Barnabas Perceived What Was About To Happen, They Escaped And Went Into The Region Of Lyconia Where The Major Cities Were Lystra And Derbe.

VI. (Slide #18) Stoning At Lystra. Ac. 14:6-20

- A. Text: “they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. ⁷And they were preaching the gospel there. ⁸And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. ⁹*This* man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰said with a loud voice, ‘Stand up straight on your feet!’ And he leaped and walked. ¹¹Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian *language*, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ ¹²And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. ¹⁴But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out ¹⁵and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, ¹⁶who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.’ ¹⁸And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them. ¹⁹Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul *and* dragged *him* out of the city, supposing him to be dead. ²⁰However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.”
- B. (Slide #19) Having Fled Iconium, Paul And Barnabas Came To (►) Lystra And Began To Proclaim The Gospel. 6,7.

- C. As Soon As They Entered The City, Paul Healed A Man Who Had Been Crippled Since Birth; He Had NEVER Walked. 14:8,9
1. There is no indication that this man had previously seen a miracle -- however, he believed Paul could heal him.
 2. Paul commanded him to stand erect on his feet; the man IMMEDIATELY leaped up and began to walk!
- D. The Immediate Response Of The People Was To Worship Paul And Barnabas As gods! 14:10-13
1. The people of this city were believers in pagan gods.
 2. When they saw this miraculous and marvelous healing, they began to repetitiously call Paul and Barnabas “gods” in the Lycaonian dialect.
 - a. They called Barnabas Zeus (the king of the gods) or Jupiter. 14:12
 - b. They called Paul Hermes (the messenger of Zeus) or Mercury because he was the chief speaker. 14:12
 - c. The priest of Zeus, a priest of the large temple in Lystra, brought oxen and garlands to the city gates, intending to make a sacrifice to these “gods.” They intended to worship Paul and Barnabas! 14:13
- E. Paul and Barnabas Were Appalled By The Attempt Of These People To Worship Them! 14:14-17
1. They were seeking no personal glory, praise, or worship!
 2. They never claimed to be “gods.”
 3. The reactions of Paul and Barnabas:
 - a. They tore their garments -- signifying great remorse!
 - b. They asked, “Why are you doing these things?”
 - c. They affirmed that they were mortal men just as the Lystrans were.
 - d. They explained their mission and their power -- they were proclaimers of the TRUE GOD! They pointed to His design of the universe and providential blessings for man to prove that there is a LIVING God! 14-17; Rom. 1:19,20; Ps. 19:1-6
 1. The idols that the Lystrans worshiped were worthless!
 2. They needed to know the LIVING God, the POWERFUL designer of the whole universe!
 3. The LIVING God gave them food through His providential plan and hand; the god, Mercury, did not give them anything! See also Mt. 5:45.
 - e. Observe here that they are described as “Barnabas and Paul.” Why? Likely it because of the context -- the Lystrans viewed Barnabas as the “chief god”!

- F. And Yet, Their Arguments Hardly Restrained These Idolaters From Wanting To Worship Them! 14:18
- G. Paul and Barnabas Went From “Gods” To “Good-For-Nothing Gospel Preachers!” 14:19,20
 - 1. Angry unbelieving Jews from Antioch and Iconium came to Lystra, influenced the multitudes to turn against Paul and Barnabas, instead of continuing to worship them as “gods”, they turned on them; they drug Paul outside the city and stoned him; they left him there thinking he was dead! 19
 - 2. Some of the disciples came to Paul; although severely beaten, he still rose and went into the city; the next day left to go to (►) Derbe. 20

VII.Revisit Of Congregations; Return To Antioch. 14:21-28

- A. ²¹And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²²strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, ‘We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.’ ²³So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. ²⁴And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. ²⁵Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. ²⁶From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. ²⁷Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.”
- B. Then They Made A Return Trip Through Previously Visited Cities Where They Had Established Congregations. They Strengthened These New Christians, Encouraged Them To Continue In The Faith Even IN The Midst Of Persecution, And Ordained Elders In Every City! 21-25 (We can only speculate how they could have gotten back into those town, accomplished these tasks, and left without more persecution!)
 - 1. Lystra -- Imagine the courage it took to FIRST go back to Lystra where Paul had been stoned and left for dead!!!
 - 2. Iconium
 - 3. Antioch
 - 4. They passed through the region of Pisidia; then through the region of Pamphylia and came to Perga where they preached.

5. They then went to the coastal city of Attalia and caught a ship headed for Antioch.
6. Observe that elders were appointed in each congregation they visited!
 - a. This is the first mention of appointing elders in the New Testament.
 - b. Note that there were a plurality of Elders chosen in each congregation!
 - c. This does not suggest that Paul and Barnabas selected the elders without the input of the congregation; they did lead the congregation into these selections!
 - d. And consider this, these men had not been Christians for decades! Perhaps the longest that some had been Christians may have been two years! And other had only been Christians for a very short period of time!
 1. Paul and Barnabas went right back to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch teaching the Christians.
 2. Now it may be true that some of these men were very devout, godly Jews who had known God and the Old Covenant! Now they became convert to Christ and the Gospel. Thus, they were very devout, godly men.
 3. Keep in mind that when the Apostles laid their hands on these Christians, they received miraculous gifts like faith, prophecy, etc. Thus they were in a different situation than new Christians today.
 4. But a caution -- I think some brethren today think NO MAN is ever qualified to be an elder! And others think a man has to be a Christian for many decades before he is qualified to be an elder. These ideas are SO wrong!

C. Return To Antioch. 26-28

1. This was their home congregation from which they had begun the Missionary Journey. 26
2. They gathered the brethren together and reported what God had done with them on the journey and particularly how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles! 27
3. They remained there with the disciples. 28
4. This journey began about early A.D. 45 and lasted until late A.D. 47 or early A.D. 48.

VIII. (Slide #20) Great Truths From The First Missionary Journey:

- A. (►) Dynamic Congregations Must Be Mission-Minded!
 - 1. They must think beyond themselves!
 - 2. They must LONG to spread the Gospel.
 - 3. It is incredible what one congregation can accomplish!
 - 4. Why did they do that?
 - a. They were truly converted believers! Ac. 11:21
 - b. Have godly, united leaders who are TRULY mission-minded! Ac. 13:1
 - c. Be devout, god-fearing, prayerful leaders!
 - d. Select dynamic, devout, dedicated missionaries! Ac. 13:2
 - e. They rejoiced in God's blessings when their efforts brought great results.
- B. (►) Mission Works Have GREAT HIGHS And DISAPPOINTING LOWS!
 - 1. The lows may be from attacks or persecution.
 - a. The opposition of Bar-Jesus.
 - b. Jewish leaders at Antioch of Pisidia.
 - c. Unbelieving Jews at Iconium wanted to stone Paul and Barnabas.
 - d. At Lystra Paul was stoned and left for dead!
 - 2. The highs can be ultimately rewarding!
 - a. The interest in the Gospel and conversion of Sergius Paulus.
 - b. People who became believers in every city.
- C. (►) Mission Work Is Not For Every Christian; Some Circumstances May Cause Brethren To Go Home -- John Mark.
- D. (Slide #19) When Some Reject The Gospel, Do Not Despair, Shake The Dust Off Your Feet, Go Find Others Who Are Eager To Learn!
- E. (►) People's Views About You May Change Almost Instantaneously! They May Be OVERLY Effusive One Minute -- "You Are 'gods!'" -- And The Next Minute Be Ready To Stone You! Just Keep Preaching The Gospel!
- F. (►) Congregations Need To Be Encouraged To Scripturally Organize (Have Qualified Elders) As Soon As Possible!

G. (►) Rejoice In The Successes Of Evangelistic Work!

1. This is true individually and congregationally!
2. It keeps you going!
3. It keeps you optimistic!
4. It reminds you that there are always people willing to seek and to obey God!
5. Eagerly look for and listen for those who are making the “Macedonian Call” in your life! Are you truly looking for those searching people?