

**"The First Mission Journey Continues"**

**Acts 13:13-14:28**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Acts we looked at the opposition which Barnabas and Paul faced on the first missionary journey on the island of Cyprus. It was from a Jewish sorcerer who was a false prophet and he was keeping company with the governor of the island. The governor, Sergius Paulus, desired to hear the Word of God and the sorcerer did all he could to keep him from the Truth. The sorcerer was blinded by the Lord for a season, and when the governor heard the Word accompanied with the miracle, he was saved.

**"The Journey Continues"**

**Notice Acts 13:13**

We briefly looked at the departing of John Mark earlier but there is something else here that I want you to see. The word "departing" here means "to depart from". Now let me show you where this was brought up again.

**Acts 15:37-38**

<sup>37</sup> *And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.*

<sup>38</sup> *But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.*

The word "departed" here in Acts 15:38 means "to revolt". Again, we do not know why John departed but we do know Paul did not see it as justified and it caused contention between him and Barnabas. Over time, however, it was worked out and John Mark became very helpful to Paul.

**2 Timothy 4:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> *Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me:*

<sup>10</sup> *For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.*

<sup>11</sup> *Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.*

**Notice Acts 13:14**

This journey from Perga to Antioch in Pisidia was about a one-hundred-mile journey and it was a very dangerous road. Notice the words of MacArthur.

*"The road from Perga to Pisidian Antioch, some one hundred miles away, was difficult and dangerous. It wound its way through the rugged Taurus mountains, clinging to cliffs that ascended to dizzying heights. Travelers also had to cross the turbulent and flood-prone Cestrus and Eurymedon rivers. The Taurus mountains were notorious for the robber bands who infested them."*

Let me show you something that Paul wrote concerning his travels.

### **2 Corinthians 11:26**

*<sup>26</sup> In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;*

Most likely some of these dangers that Paul faced were on the road to Pisidian Antioch.

#### **Application:**

This is a reminder to you and me that when we serve the Lord, we might possibly face dangerous situations. I point this out because the church today has become very soft and tends to think that if the path is difficult or dangerous it is probably not in the will of God. To counter that thought I would point people to the life of our Lord whose path was very difficult and so dangerous it led to death. Then there is Noah who had to build the ark, Daniel and his friends who were taken from their families and raised in Babylon, there is Moses who had to deal with the whining Israelites for forty years, there are the wall builders under Nehemiah, there is John the Baptist who was beheaded, and then all the Apostles. The point is that serving that Lord can be very difficult and dangerous at times. I will give you a statement that I heard Pastor Ritchie say, "Circumstances do not determine the will of God".

#### **Notice Acts 13:14-16**

When they arrived at Antioch they went to the synagogue on the Sabbath and it was the custom, that the Scriptures would be read in the synagogue. First was a reading from the Torah (the law) and then a reading from the prophets. There was then an opportunity given to Paul to expound upon the reading. It is interesting that they singled out Paul and Barnabas. This was no doubt the hand of God opening the door for Paul to share the Gospel. They had no idea who they opened the door for. Paul was capable of preaching all night long.

**Acts 20:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

<sup>8</sup> And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.

<sup>9</sup> And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

**Application:**

It is good for us today to be alert to these very situations where God opens the door to share His Word or a testimony to unsaved people.

**1 Peter 3:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

<sup>15</sup> But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

<sup>16</sup> Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

As Paul begins to preach, he will review the history of the Jews. A review is always good because we are all prone to forget.

**2 Peter 12-15**

<sup>12</sup> Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

<sup>13</sup> Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

<sup>14</sup> Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

<sup>15</sup> Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

**Notice Acts 13:17-18**

God brought Israel out of Egypt and for forty years he "suffered their manners" in the wilderness. This means God put up with their sinful ways. They were a group of complaining and ungrateful people. But God had made a covenant with Abraham and therefore He could not destroy them nor could He abandon them.

**Genesis 15:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

<sup>18</sup> In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

**Notice Acts 13:19**

Even in the midst of their sinful ways God proved to be faithful to His covenant and His promises to the nation.

**Application:**

What an encouragement this is to us today. We are far from perfect and our poor choices often can put us in some very uncomfortable situations but our God is always faithful to us.

**2 Timothy 2:13**

<sup>13</sup> If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

God will never cast us off. We are His children and He has promised us eternal life and no person or nothing can keep His promises from being fulfilled. Even when we fail, He still shows Himself faithful.

**Psalms 37:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

<sup>24</sup> Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

<sup>25</sup> I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

<sup>26</sup> *He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed.*

**Conclusion:**

**Notice Acts 13:20-23**

To these sinful rebellious people God provided a Savior to die in their place and raise from the dead so that they could be forgiven.

**Application:**

Here we are on Thanksgiving Eve and we too have so much to be thankful for. We were enemies of God and He still extended His grace to us and provided a Savior. Even now we still complain, and we follow our own sin nature at times and yet He never gives up on us.

**Philippians 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*