



Paul's 1st Missionary Journey.
Acts 13:1-14:28

Saul, Barnabas, and John Mark were sent out from Antioch in Syria. This team travelled from late AD 47 to the end of AD 48. John Mark abandoned them early in the trip, but all told, Paul and Barnabas would travel an estimated 1400 miles by land and sea.

What do you think is required to answer a call like this?

1st Stop: The Island of Cyprus.
Acts 13:4-12

This was Barnabas' home territory. (Acts 4:36) Paul had

spent nine years in Tarsus ministering to his hometown. It makes sense that Barnabas would desire to travel to Cyprus to spread the good news of Jesus. This was his personal Jerusalem and Judea.

They landed on the eastern shore of the Island at Salamis and travelled through the whole Island reaching Paphos, the capital city of the Island at the time. It is here that Saul begins using his Roman name Paul because Luke makes this transition in His narrative. (verse 9). This gives Paul a better standing with Sergius Paulus, the Roman Administrator (Proconsul) of the Island.

Paul and Barnabas are opposed by an evil advisor of Sergius by the name of Bar-Jesus, (Elymas). The two references to this man mean "son of Joshua" and "sorcerer". Paul uses bold confrontation and a miracle to silence Elymas. Resulting in the Proconsuls conversion to Christ. (Acts 13:9-12)

In what ways do you think Satan opposes sharing the gospel?

2nd Stop: Pisidian Antioch Acts 13:13-52

The team travels by ship from Cyprus to Perga. This is where John Mark abandons Paul and Barnabas. Why do you think John Mark left the team? _____ Have you ever experienced an abandonment like this in ministry? _____ How did you deal with it spiritually and emotionally? Did you ever walk away from a ministry in a similar fashion? What have you learned?

It is believed there was no Synagogue in Perga. It seems that Paul and Barnabas did not stay long here before travelling north to Pisidian Antioch where Paul delivers a powerful sermon. (Acts 13:16-41). In this sermon Paul gives a history lesson of Israel from their bondage in Egypt to their conquest of Canaan. Through the judges of Israel to Samuel. He talks of king Saul, and David, and then connects the Messiah to David. (vs 23). He continues speaking of John the Baptist and Jesus the Messiah. His death burial and resurrection. He concludes the sermon powerfully! (Acts 13:38-41) Many come to faith as a result, and interest grows throughout the city. Both good and bad. The following Sabbath, great opposition arrives. Their time in the city ends with the events described in Acts 13:46-51.

3rd Stop: Iconium. Acts 14:1-7

Paul and Barnabas continue to preach with boldness and people continue to come to faith. This brings division in the city. This is what the gospel does! It unifies believers but separates them from the world. Jesus said He would do this! (Luke 12:51-53). _____

4th Stop: Lystra and Derbe Acts 14:8-21a.

Paul heals a lame man in Lystra, as a result the crowd thinks Barnabas is Zeus and Paul is Hermes. This causes the missionaries to tear their clothing in distress and try to correct the mistaken identities. They preach against idolatry, desiring them to turn to the living God. (Acts 14:15-17)

The Jews from Pisidian Antioch followed them to cause trouble. They stoned Paul, drug him out of the city- leaving him for dead. The disciples gather and Paul stands up walking right back into the city. (Acts 14:19-20)

Our nation today is primarily divided among moral lines- those who at least culturally hold to biblical values and those who do not. Please note Mark 3:24-25

The Return the Antioch in Syria. Acts 14:21b-28.

On the way back to Antioch in Syria, Paul, and Barnabas travel through the cities they had previously preached in. Remember, this entire trip lasted over a year. They encourage and strengthen those who are a part of the churches in Lystra, Iconium and Pisidian Antioch.

They also appoint elders to lead them. They preach in the other cities as they travel back.

Upon arriving back in Antioch of Syria they report all that had happened and continued to minister there with the church.