

Acts 13-14

Sent Out by the Holy Spirit



Acts 13:4, 14:26

So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit, and they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.....

26 From there they sailed back to Antioch where they had been entrusted to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.



The action begins and ends at **Antioch**. They sail to the nearby island of **Cyprus**, and then on to the surrounding cities and regions of the Roman world. Trace this first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas on your map: **Antioch, Seleucia, Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe**, and then their return through some of these cities back to Antioch. If you're tracing this on a map, the journey forms a rough loop out from Antioch and back again. Their travels were by sea and over land.



*Don't confuse **Pisidian Antioch (in Galatia)** which is part of their missionary journey with **Antioch (in Syria)** which is their home base and church.

The evangelistic journey lasts 1 1/2 to 2 years, from around 46-48 AD. We don't know exactly how long they stayed in each place.



The first organized evangelistic outreach to the Gentiles—usually referred to as Paul's "first missionary journey".



John Mark—a young cousin of Barnabas, he is originally from Jerusalem and is the son of Mary (home where the prayer meeting for Peter was held).

Barnabas and Saul bring him first to Antioch and then on their missionary journey as a helper. He leaves them and returns to Jerusalem a short way into their journey.



In the next session we'll look at some of the dramatic and significant events of this first journey. Study ahead by considering some of the following:

- Compare **false** prophet Elymas to the **true** prophets described just a few verses earlier in Acts 11:27-28 and 13:1-2.
- Consider young John Mark, their assistant—his background. Read Acts 15:36-38. Why might he have deserted them? Compare his actions with Acts 14:26.
- Consider that the disciples at Antioch of Pisidia are filled with joy despite persecution and the departure of Paul and Barnabas, Acts 13:49-52.
- In some places Paul and Barnabas flee and other places they stay in the face of obstacles. Why?
- Paul is stoned and left for dead in Lystra. Yet, there is cause for rejoicing here. Why? Read also Acts 16:1-3 and 2 Timothy 3:10-11.
- Consider how Paul and Barnabas choose leaders for the new churches. Acts 14:21-23.

Acts 13:2-4

2 While they were worshiping/ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Our ministry and activity should not come out of a planning session.

Our ministry and activity should come out of a prayer meeting.

3 Then, after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.

4 Being sent out by the Holy Spirit....

Imagine the confidence and courage when we know we have been **called** and **sent out** by the Holy Spirit. We can more steadfastly face every difficulty and trial!

The church's part in the call and sending of Barnabas and Saul is to **confirm**, to **commission**, to **cover**, and to **release**.

Maintenance vs. Mission—what kind of mindset did the Antioch church have? What mindset do we have?

The Holy Spirit's guidance is both **spiritual** and **practical**—always!

Overview of the first missionary journey:

Acts 14:26-28

26 From there they sailed back to Antioch where they had been entrusted to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 After they arrived and gathered the church together, they reported everything God had done through them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

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