



Paul Takes the Lead
Acts 12:25-13:12

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July 23, 2017

What will we learn?

- ❖ The family of God > ethnicity/social class.
- ❖ The work of the church is often done in teams.
- ❖ Beware of the occult.
- ❖ The people of God seek him through fasting, prayer and worship.



A Spirit-filled Church:

- ❖ Devoted to the apostles' teaching
- ❖ Devoted to fellowship
- ❖ Devoted to “the breaking of bread”
- ❖ Devoted to prayer

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the book and the person's arms. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the texture of the skin and the pages of the book.

The Antioch church:

- ❖ Multi-cultural
- ❖ Praying
- ❖ Committed to discipleship
- ❖ Generous to the needy



Acts 12:25

When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.



Mission team:

- ❖ Joseph Barnabas
- ❖ Saul aka Paul
- ❖ John Mark

Acts 13:1

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

Antioch church leaders:

- ❖ Barnabas
- ❖ Simeon called Niger
- ❖ Lucius of Cyrene
- ❖ Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch)
- ❖ Saul

Acts 13:2-3

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.



Led by the Holy Spirit:

❖ Acts 4:31

❖ Acts 8:29

❖ Acts 8:39

❖ Acts 10:44

❖ Acts 13:2

❖ Acts 16:6

Fasting in the Old Testament:

- ❖ a sign of grief or mourning
- ❖ a sign of repentance and seeking forgiveness for sin
- ❖ an aid in prayer
- ❖ an experience of the presence of God
- ❖ an act of ceremonial public worship



William H. Baker

“Luke emphasizes the divine initiative of the Holy Spirit in the sending of the two missionaries, Barnabas and Saul, to Cyprus. The role of the church is to perceive this initiative, not create it.”



John Stott

“In both cases the call to go was clear, while the land and the work were not. So in both cases the response to God’s call required an adventurous step of faith.”

Acts 13:4-5

The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.



Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it is the power of God that brings
salvation to everyone who believes:
first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.



Acts 13:6

**They traveled through the whole island
until they came to Paphos.**



Acts

Paul's World in
Acts 12-13

MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY
CHURCH
REFLECTING CHRIST'S LOVE

Hotel and
Beach Bathers
at Coral Bay,
Cypress





Ancient Greek
Amphitheatre on
the Island of
Cypress

Ancient Castle
at Paphos, Cypress



Photo:
Paul Larkin



Sunset on the
Island of Cypress

Acts 13:6-7

There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the book and the person's arms. The text is overlaid on the image.

Acts 13:8

But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.

Acts 13:9-10

Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery.



Acts 13:10-11

“Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.”

Early church vs. demonic powers:

- ❖ Acts 8:9-23
- ❖ Acts 13:6-12
- ❖ Acts 16:16-18
- ❖ Acts 19:13-17

Acts 13:11-12

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.



Acts 13:13

From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga ...

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The book is open, showing two pages of text. The background is softly blurred, suggesting a desk or table. The overall lighting is warm and natural.

Transitions:

- ❖ He is no longer called Saul, but Paul.
- ❖ Paul takes the lead.

What have we learned?

- ❖ The family of God > ethnicity/social class.
- ❖ The work of the church is often done in teams.
- ❖ Beware of the occult.
- ❖ The people of God seek him through fasting, prayer and worship.



Are you being called?

- ❖ To receive Christ
- ❖ To become a member of Melbourne Community Church
- ❖ To pray / to receive prayer
- ❖ To affirm or reaffirm a commitment
- ❖ To receive the LORD's Supper