

**Dr. Ron Armstrong • September 5, 2021**

## **The Movement Begins: Everybody's Needed**

**Acts 13**<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

<sup>4</sup>The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

<sup>5</sup>When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

<sup>6</sup>They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. <sup>9</sup>Then... Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, <sup>10</sup>"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. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup>Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup>When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord. <sup>13</sup>From Paphos, Paul and his

companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

### **A. Antioch is a really early model of an "equipping and sending" church.**

1. Where is it? Referred to as Syrian Antioch in the Roman province of Syria. Now it would be Antakya, Turkey. (Hellenized area.)
2. Greek influence led to being called Christians and eventually getting the Chi Rho as our logo.
3. Paul's first missionary journey is equipped and sent by this church.
4. Chain-mail churches: They are strongest and most protective when there are no missing links.

### **B. The ministry of the local church should include everybody.**

1. Paul and Barnabas may be the stars of the chapter, but everybody was in ministry.
2. The rich and poor taught and heard about Jesus. Wealth did not include you, exclude you, give you prominence, or make you more spiritual.
3. Experience shows us that every personality type can be successful in ministry. Focus on "fit."
4. Start with a "need" ministry. It helps you find your "passion" ministry.
5. It's easy to see pastors as different. Our gifts, abilities, and responsibilities may be different, but they are not more important or more valuable.
6. The joy and fulfillment of ministry are God's gifts to us, but the results always belong to Him.
7. Ministry methods are always growing, changing, and adapting for the next generation. Let them because, God is full of surprises.