

20230326 – ANTIOCH SENDS PAUL AND BARNABAS

Sunday AM – Acts 13:1-26

I. SPECIAL PRAYER

- A. Antioch didn't send missionaries because they were a "Great Missionary Church"
 - 1. They were a great missionary church because they sent MISSIONARIES!
 - a. Everything was done in a church-centric way – not man-centered!
 - b. It was a local, visible body of baptized believers at Antioch (vs. 1)
 - i. They were "in the church" not peripheral to it
 - ii. Meaning they were MEMBERS
 - iii. They probably showed up early for services
 - iv. They probably stayed late
 - v. They might have even come to church if it rained
 - c. A church is an IRREDUCIBLE unit, a BODY
 - i. Your big toe doesn't do ANYTHING – your body does it!
 - ii. Pastors don't "do" things. Deacons don't "do" things.
 - iii. Evangelists don't "do" things. Missionaries don't either!
 - iv. CHURCHES do things – if it's SCRIPTURAL
 - d. And churches are made up of PEOPLE!
 - 2. We use the term "missionary" which isn't a Bible Term
 - a. Technically the word is "evangelist"
 - b. But the role functions like a assistant pastor, just in another place
 - c. A missionary is under the authority of his sending church
 - 3. Chapter 13 in the Book of Acts represents another large change
 - a. While there are many ways to divide the book (last Sunday)
 - b. This is one where our minds naturally go to
 - c. Before Paul and after Paul
 - d. The Missionary Journeys and the stuff that happened before them
- B. The Great Commission
 - 1. God has ONE plan to evangelize the World
 - a. An omnipotent, omniscient, all-knowing God only NEEDS one!
 - i. I don't bad-mouth Doctors without Borders
 - ii. Toys for Tots, Shoes for Kids, or Medical Do-Gooders
 - iii. Build houses and church buildings in South America!
 - iv. But they are not missions work!
 - b. There is only one Biblical plan for the Gospel!
 - c. And that is Church-Sent Gospel Missions!
 - i. Both in the local area
 - ii. And to the regions beyond!
 - 2. Jesus had ALL POWER – He could have made any plan He wanted
 - a. MATT 28:18-20 – "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye

therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

- b. He gave us (Naples Baptist Temple) a task to perform
 - i. Evangelize
 - ii. Baptize
 - iii. Disciple
- c. And it is a task for us to go to ALL NATIONS
- 3. MARK 16:15 – “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
 - a. GO – that is the order
 - b. PREACH – that is the activity
 - c. PREACH! REACH! THEN TEACH!
- C. They were already BUSY doing the Lord’s Work (not waiting around)
 - 1. They weren’t sitting on their couches waiting for someone to beg them
 - 2. They were TEACHING (vs. 1). They were having SPECIAL PRAYER
 - 3. And God SENT PREACHERS (God did the calling!)

II. SENT PREACHERS

- A. God had His choice among many great men at Antioch (vs. 1)
 - 1. Look at this pastoral staff
 - a. Barnabas – A Levite who sold his inheritance and gave everything to the work of the Lord
 - b. Simeon Niger – a gentile of African descent, found happily worshipping and LEADING this church
 - c. Lucius of Cyrene – another gentile from a hedonistic city of philosophers now Saved and serving God
 - d. Manaen – nurtured in the royal court, now holding a higher honor than Herod ever obtained, a child of God and pastor
 - e. Saul – the former persecutor, a Pharisee of the Pharisees, Hebrew of the Hebrews, now a pastor to Gentiles and servant!
 - 2. They were DOING the work God called them to do as a church
 - 3. That’s quite a group, and God picked out two to use for His purposes
- B. This was a DIVINE CALLING (vs. 2)
 - 1. God moved on their hearts first
 - 2. Then they prayed and FASTED – they were serious about it!
 - a. What does God want us to do now
 - b. How do we overcome the next challenge
 - c. How will God make His glory known next!
 - 3. And THEN the church confirmed God’s choice – they were ordained
 - a. “Invested with ministerial or pastoral functions; settled.”

- b. "To set apart for an office; to appoint."
 - c. Setting a resource aside for a specific purpose
- C. This is exactly the same way it is to be done today!
 - 1. Not by mission board nor committee
 - 2. Holy Ghost LED, Church SENT missionaries!
 - 3. But sometimes the Sent Preachers meet SUBTLE PERVERSION

III. SUBTLE PERVERSION

- A. Satan ALWAYS opposes Church Sent Missionaries (vs. 8 & 10)
 - 1. "But" is always an important word in Scripture
 - 2. It indicates a negation of the previous phrase
 - 3. There was a desire to hear the Gospel – BUT!
 - 4. This happens in the lives of the lost we try to reach
 - a. I'd love to come to church but little johnny's sports team
 - b. I'd love to know more but I'm leaving for a fishing trip
 - c. I'd just don't have time right now, I'm too busy
 - 5. But how sad when that happens in our lives as well!
 - a. We want to learn more about Jesus BUT our pastimes
 - b. We want to serve God more BUT our obstacles
- B. Elymas the sorcerer - Barjesus
 - 1. His name means "son of Joshua" but he certainly didn't act like it!
 - a. He was a SORCERER! He was on the Devil's payroll!
 - b. DEUT. 18:10-12 – "There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, (11) Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. (12) For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee."
 - 2. Paul says he was FILLED with SUBTILTY and MISCHIEF
 - a. Paul called him a child of the devil (vs. 10)
 - b. Paul begged him to CEASE his perversion of the RIGHT ways
 - c. And Paul reported what God was about to do to him (vs. 11)
- C. Sergius Paulus was a prudent man
 - 1. He had been fooled – but not for long!
 - a. PROV. 16:21 – "The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning."
 - b. PROV. 13:16 – "Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly."
 - 2. Now he gets Saved – BELIEVED (vs. 12)
 - 3. The SUBTLE PERVERSION ended, now they go SYNAGOGUE PREACHING

IV. SYNAGOGUE PLEADING

- A. They read the Bible in the Synagogue – the Old Testament is READ (vs. 15)
 - 1. This is needed in more churches today
 - 2. Rely on the SCRIPTURE not STORIES!
 - 3. Preach the WORD not WORKS!
 - 4. Preach the CROSS not CUNNING FABLES!
- B. Paul preaches a message from the reading on “JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH”
 - 1. The deliverance from Egyptian Bondage (vs. 17)
 - 2. The wilderness journeys (vs. 18)
 - 3. Israel’s victories in the Land of Canaan (vs. 19)
 - 4. Judges appointed (vs. 20)
 - 5. Israel’s first king – Saul (vs. 21)
 - 6. Israel’s greatest king – David (vs. 22-23)
 - 7. And David’s Promised Seed – Jesus
- C. This was the work of John the Baptist (vs. 24-25)
 - 1. To be the forerunner of Jesus Christ
 - 2. As prophesied in MAL. 4:6
 - 3. LUKE 1:17 – “And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
 - 4. The Salvation message was AND IS to WHOSOEVER (vs. 26)
 - 5. The SYNAGOGE PREACHING highlighted the SEED PROMISED

V. SEED PROMISED

- A. God promised His Lamb to pay for the sin debt of the World
 - 1. That is the SEED of DAVID, Jesus Christ
 - 2. ACTS 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
 - 3. That name is Jesus – He alone can Save
- B. And we NEED to be Saved – without Him there is NO HOPE
 - 1. JOHN 3:16-18 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (17) For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
 - 2. What about you? Are you under His condemnation today?
 - 3. You don’t have to be! God sent His Son!
- C. Be Saved Today!