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Beyond the Walls – Sending Out

Acts 13

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In Acts 13, Paul and Barnabas are commissioned by the Holy Spirit and sent out by the early church. When they travel to spread the words of Christ and the message of the gospel, they meet both opposition and great success. Today we will look at both the difficulties that they were forced to overcome and the great blessing that the Holy Spirit poured out on them. The spread of the gospel has many different pieces, but there are a couple things that are always present; most significantly, the Holy Spirit.



EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in these passages.

Read Acts 13:1-52 (NET)

Now there were these prophets and teachers in the church at Antioch: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen (a close friend of Herod the tetrarch from childhood) and Saul. ² While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then, after they had fasted and prayed and placed their hands on them, they sent them off.

⁴ So Barnabas and Saul, sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived in Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. (Now they also had John as their assistant.) ⁶ When they had crossed over the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was with the proconsul Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. The proconsul summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸ But the magician Elymas (for that is the way his name is translated) opposed them, trying to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ But Saul (also known as Paul), filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at him ¹⁰ and said, "You who are full of all deceit and all wrongdoing, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness—will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?" ¹¹ Now look, the hand of the Lord is against you, and you will be blind, unable to see the sun for a time!" Immediately mistiness and darkness came over him, and he went around seeking people to lead him by the hand. ¹² Then when the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, because he was greatly astounded at the teaching about the Lord. ¹³ Then Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John left them and returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ Moving on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.

¹⁵ After the reading from the law and the prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, "Brothers, if you have any message of exhortation for the people, speak it." ¹⁶ So Paul stood up, gestured with his hand and said, "Men of Israel, and you Gentiles who fear God, listen: ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay as foreigners in the country of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. ¹⁸ For a period of about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. ¹⁹ After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave his people their land as an inheritance. ²⁰ All this took about four hundred fifty years. After this he gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. ²¹ Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man from the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. ²² After removing him, God raised up David their king. He testified about him: 'I have found David the son of Jesse to be a man after my heart, who will accomplish everything I want him to do.' ²³ From the descendants of this man God brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, just as he promised. ²⁴ Before Jesus arrived, John had proclaimed a baptism for repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ But while John was completing his mission, he said repeatedly, 'What do you think I am? I am not he. But look, one is coming after me. I am not worthy to untie the sandals on his feet!' ²⁶ Brothers, descendants of Abraham's family, and those Gentiles among you who fear God, the message of this salvation has been sent to us. ²⁷ For the people who live in Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize him, and they fulfilled the sayings of the prophets that are read every Sabbath by condemning him. ²⁸ Though they found no basis for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹ When they had accomplished everything that was written about him, they took

him down from the cross and placed him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised him from the dead, ³¹ and for many days he appeared to those who had accompanied him from Galilee to Jerusalem. These are now his witnesses to the people. ³² And we proclaim to you the good news about the promise to our ancestors, ³³ that this promise God has fulfilled to us, their children, by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second psalm, 'You are my Son; today I have fathered you.' ³⁴ But regarding the fact that he has raised Jesus from the dead, never again to be in a state of decay, God has spoken in this way: 'I will give you the holy and trustworthy promises made to David.' ³⁵ Therefore he also says in another psalm, 'You will not permit your Holy One to experience decay.' ³⁶ For David, after he had served God's purpose in his own generation, died, was buried with his ancestors, and experienced decay, ³⁷ but the one whom God raised up did not experience decay. ³⁸ Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through this one forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, ³⁹ and by this one everyone who believes is justified from everything from which the law of Moses could not justify you. ⁴⁰ Watch out, then, that what is spoken about by the prophets does not happen to you: ⁴¹ 'Look, you scoffers; be amazed and perish! For I am doing a work in your days, a work you would never believe, even if someone tells you.'"

⁴² As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people were urging them to speak about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³ When the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who were speaking with them and were persuading them to continue in the grace of God.

⁴⁴ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city assembled together to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they began to contradict what Paul was saying by reviling him. ⁴⁶ Both Paul and Barnabas replied courageously, "It was necessary to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ For this is what the Lord has commanded us: 'I have appointed you to be a light for the Gentiles, to bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they began to rejoice and praise the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed for eternal life believed. ⁴⁹ So the word of the Lord was spreading through the entire region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high social standing and the prominent men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and threw them out of their region. ⁵¹ So after they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them, they went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.

2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.

3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.

4. Is there anything repeated?

5. What is emphasized?

6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?

7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

🕒 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

What does God MEAN?

8. Why were Barnabas and Paul sent out?

9. Looking at verse 27, what were some of the readings of the prophets that were fulfilled by the rejection of Jesus?
10. In verse 41, why do you think Paul quotes Habakkuk 1:5?
11. In verse 44, it tells us the whole city was gathered together to hear from Paul and Barnabas. Why do you think the whole city showed up to hear the message?

☪ EMBRACE His Word (Application)

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. What things can we as a church do to attract more people to come hear the message of God?
13. Many of the messages in Acts, including Paul's message in chapter 13, give a history of the Jewish people before talking about Jesus. Why do you think they do this? Should we be doing this when we share the gospel?

14. How does our attitude affect the success that we have when we invite people to come hear the gospel? Consider our ability to show the hope, joy, peace, love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES