

# The Missionary Journeys Begin!

## Read and pray Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21

- also note the manifestation of the riches and power of the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 4 – 6
- When we receive what we ask for in these passages, the Holy Spirit will send us off to wherever He desires.

From the sequence of contents in Acts, we see that **before the missionary journeys occur**, upon the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (ch.2), the resurrection message is forefront in the mind and the power of the Holy Spirit's baptism is in the heart (chs.2-11) which is your new, core identity which He zealously works out through your entire being.

As we travel through each location, observe and take note of the Apostles' experiences to gain insight into the objectives and actions of the Holy Spirit as well as the challenges / oppositions to His servants.

## **Acts 13 Paul's First Missionary Journey (MJ)**

Vs.4 - We must be immersed in the Holy Spirit and He in us to the point where our fears and anxieties are covered by the ever-growing identity of Christ. Then can we say we are sent by the Holy Spirit as Saul and Barnabas were sent.

### **At Cyprus...**

- Vss.6-12
- The miracle against Elymas the sorcerer, why don't we see these acts of God in our present age? [affirmation]
  - note Saul's name (means great one) change to Paul [indicative of name change due to baptism]. Paul means "asked of God" / "little one".
  - Also note the repeated emphasis on the name of the false prophet / sorcerer. "Elymas" was probably a self-assumed designation.
    - Identify all the things which Paul reveals about this person; equate the name / identity with all of Paul's statements.
  - Paul and Barnabas were led to the proconsul who wanted to hear the Word of God. God demonstrated that His Word cannot be hindered.
  - Today, His grace is poured out abundantly. Where sin abounds, grace abounds much more!

### **At Pisidian Antioch...**

- Vss.13-52
- Paul preaches the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles, testifying to the grace of God to all people. Initially, there was interest. But what happened when almost the whole city...
  - God's Word will not be hindered by jealousy, prejudice, inclusiveness, etc.
  - God will always have the remnant of those who honor the Word of God and are appointed for eternal life.

- Only the Holy Spirit through the Word of God can give you joy!!!

### **At Iconium...**

#### **Chapter 14:1-7**

- Word was preached so effectively that many believed.
- Signs and wonders confirmed the message and messengers.
- Division occurred. A plot was made to mistreat and stone them.
- They fled to continue preaching.

### **At Lystra and Derbe...**

Vss.8-20

- Eyes of faith enable us to see who has the faith to be healed.
- The father of lies can get people to think that good things can come from gods rather than the one and only true God. The devil gets people to think they have the power which only belongs to God.
- Note Barnabas and Paul's response, "...we too are only men..." and yet they still had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.
- Paul was stoned. Was he dead? 2 Corinthians 12 could possibly refer to an experience Paul had at this time.

### **Back at Antioch in Syria...**

Vss.21-28

- Enroute back to Antioch, they went back through the cities they preached in and having won many disciples, encouraged them to remain true to the faith.
- "...we must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."
- What are some of the hardships that you go through daily which may be stumbling blocks to your spiritual growth, evangelism, or discipleship of others?
- At each city, Barnabas and Paul appointed leaders in each church. The word "church" first used here as a local assembly, not necessarily a building but rather a group of Christians.
- **Note sequence of missionary activity:** preaching, discipling, strengthening, appointing leaders.
- This is the end point of the first missionary journey.
- Back at Antioch, a full report was given.

Go back over each location. What are the objectives and actions of the Holy Spirit as well as the challenges / oppositions to His servants as He sends them to various locations?

What can we learn for the journeys on which the Holy Spirit sends us?