

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell

Topic: Acts

Scripture – Acts 13:1-52

- Briefly summarize the main points of the sermon.
- What questions do you still have from today's sermon?
- Read Vv. 13:1-3
 - What role did prayer and fasting play in the church's decision to send out Paul and Barnabas? (v. 2-3)
 - How does this passage challenge the way we approach major decisions in ministry and life?
 - How can you seek God's guidance more intentionally in your own decisions?
- Read Vv. 13:4-12
 - Who were Paul and Barnabas' first major audience on their journey (v. 4-5)? Why was Cyprus significant?
 - What opposition did they face from Elymas (also called Bar-Jesus) when sharing the gospel with Sergius Paulus (v. 6-8)?
 - How does Paul's rebuke of Elymas (v. 9-11) demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit?
 - What was the result of this confrontation (v. 12)? How did God use opposition to bring about faith?
 - How does this passage show that spiritual opposition is real? How can we be prepared for it? (See Ephesians 6:10-12.)
 - Sergius Paulus was drawn to the gospel but faced resistance. How can we pray for and support those who are spiritually seeking?
- Read Vv. 13:13-41
 - What Old Testament events and figures does Paul reference in his sermon (v. 16-22)? Why is this significant for his Jewish audience?
 - What main points does Paul make about Jesus in his sermon? (v. 23-39)
 - How does Paul emphasize salvation by faith rather than works? (v. 38-39)
 - How can you clearly explain salvation to someone who believes they must earn it?
- Read Vv. 13:42-52
 - What was the initial response of the people after hearing Paul's message (v. 42-43)?
 - What caused the Jewish leaders to oppose Paul and Barnabas (v. 44-45)?
 - How does Paul explain the shift toward preaching to the Gentiles (v. 46-47)? What Old Testament prophecy does he reference?
 - What was the reaction of the Gentiles to Paul's message (v. 48-49)?
 - How did the opposition escalate in verses 50-51? How did Paul and Barnabas respond?
 - How do you typically respond to rejection when sharing your faith? What can you learn from Paul and Barnabas?

