

The First Missionary Enterprise

Acts 13:1-5

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Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 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." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John (Mark) to assist them.

Acts Timeline

- **30 AD Pentecost**
- **31 AD Persecution by Saul (Paul), Samaria**
- **34 AD Saul's (Paul's) Conversion**
- **37 AD Peter at Cornelius' house in Caesarea**
- **42 AD Barnabas sent to Antioch**
- **44 AD Herod Agrippa died**
- **48 AD Acts 13: Paul and Barnabas, The First Intentional Missionary Journey**

Who was in the church at Antioch?

- Believers from Jerusalem escaping persecution
- Barnabas from Cyprus originally
- Simeon from Africa
- Lucius of Cyrene, Libya
- Manaen of Qumran and Rome
- Saul (Paul) from Tarsus originally
- Expatriates: dual citizenship, multi-lingual, multi-cultural, traveled, experienced, with a larger vision of the world.

1. The Senders

- **Prophets and Teachers**
- **Not Scribes and Pharisees**
- **Spiritual Freshness – the worshiped and fasted and they heard God!**
- **Do we give God the time and the opportunity to speak to us?**

Frank Buchman's Story

- "I thought of those six men back in Philadelphia who I felt had wronged me. They probably had, but I'd got so mixed up in the wrong that I was the seventh wrong man...."



Frank Buchman's Story

“I began to see myself as God saw me, which was a very different picture than the one I had of myself. I don't know how you explain it, I can only tell you I sat there and realized how my sin, my pride, my selfishness and my ill-will, had eclipsed me from God in Christ.... I was the center of my own life. That big 'I' had to be crossed out. I saw my resentments against those men standing out like tombstones in my heart. I asked God to change me and He told me to put things right with them.”

Frank Buchman's Story

- **“It produced in me a vibrant feeling, as though a strong current of life had suddenly been poured into me and afterwards a dazed sense of a great spiritual shaking-up.”**
- **F. B. Meyer asked Buchman, "Do you let the Holy Spirit guide you in all you are doing?" Buchman replied that he did indeed pray and read the Bible in the morning. "But," persisted Meyer, "do you give God enough uninterrupted time really to tell you what to do?"**

2. The Sent

- Paul and Barnabas were mature in their faith.
- They were seeds placed in the ground, out of sight, so life could be born in and through them.
- They were “called” of God: “For God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29).
- They were “sent on their way by the Holy Spirit” (Acts 13:4), “committed to the grace of God for the work...” (Acts 14:26)

3. The Recipients

- They went to people unknown to them, but known to God.
- They went to people who did not know they are coming, but God did.
- They first went to Jews. Salvation is “first for the Jew and then for the Gentile” (Rom. 1:16).
- Cyprus, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, and back again.

A Greater Vision for God's Work

- **Get our eyes off of ourselves – who we are, how “I” feel, obsession about comfort zones.**
- **God calls us to do His will, to bear His message, to focus on His glory.**
- **The world today is in great need of Jesus.**