

ACTS- Church On Mission

Part 36- The Straight Paths Of The Lord

Acts 13:4-12- “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, & 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 to assist them. When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. He was w/ the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas & Saul & sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled w/ the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him & said, "**You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit & villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?** And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, & you will be blind & unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist & darkness fell upon him, & he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.”

- **Intro:**
- Acts 11:19- Some of the scattered believers traveled there & preached “only to Jews” (what they started w/ here)
- Acts 4:36- Barnabas was born there
- VS. 8- Bar-Jesus “tried to turn the proconsul from the faith”
- 2 Corinthians 4:2- “But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. **We refuse to practice cunning** or to tamper w/ God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God”

- **Where Does This Phrase Come From?**
- Hosea 14:9- “Whoever is wise, let him understand these things; whoever is discerning, let him know them; **for the ways of the Lord are right**, & the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.” (2 Peter 2:15)
- Micah 3:9- “Hear this, you heads of the house of Jacob & rulers of the house of Israel, who detest justice & **make crooked all that is straight**,”
- Jeremiah 6:13-14- ““For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone **is greedy for unjust gain**; & from prophet to priest, everyone **deals falsely**. They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace.”
- Only the Gospel is the “power of God for salvation” (Rom 1:16)
- Titus 1:9- “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine **& also to rebuke those who contradict it.**”

- **What Were The Outcomes?**
- **The Holy Spirit Sent Them, Empowered Them & Opposed Him**
- VS. 4- “being sent out by the Holy Spirit”
- VS. 9- “But Paul, filled w/ the Holy Spirit”
- Matthew 10:20- “Don't worry about what to say for it will...be the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

- 2 Peter 1:3- “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life & godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory & excellence,” (God Sandwich)
- Romans 8:11- “If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”
- VS. 10- Exposed= “You are a child of the devil & an enemy...”
- VS. 8- “Elymus the magician ‘opposed them’
- VS. 11- “Immediately mist & darkness came over him, & he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand”

- **RESPONSE:**

- **Who’s Here Today Because Of The Straight Path Of The Lord?**
- **Who’s In Your Life That Looks Like Sergius Paulus?**
- **Who’s In Your Life That Looks Like Elymus?**