

April 11, 2021

A Word of Encouragement in a World of Hurt

The Continued Story....

Acts 13:1-52 Excerpts.

Antioch was a sending church. They had a great church planting strategy:

1. Go where the gospel hasn't been heard, 2. Concentrate on population centers (where the governmental and commercial cities were) 3. Share the good news with the Jews and God-fearing Gentiles, 4. Stay a short time and teach, train, and disciple the people, 5. Establish a church, 6. Move on, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide them, 7. Visit young churches when needed for support, 8. Report to the Mother church, 9. Start over.

First Story: Vs. 3-12 Paul and Barnabas, and John Mark in Paphos with the Governor Sergius and Bar-Jesus

2 Good Lessons:

- 1. Even when you are doing the right thing for the right reasons and expanding the kingdom of God, there will be conflict and disagreement.
- 2. Advancing the gospel always comes at a cost.

Second Story: Vs. 13-52 Preaching the gospel at Antioch of Pisidia Synagogue What are you going to do with Jesus?

Small Group Discussion

Opening: Do you have any prayer requests, praises, or words from God or sins to confess?

1.. Read the text: Acts 13:4-52

What insight, principle, or observation for this weekend's message did you find to be helpful, eye opening, or troubling? Explain.

- 2. How can the strategy of planting churches work with normal New Life people?
- 3. When have you experienced the gospel being liberating and confrontational?
- 4. What does it mean to contextualize the gospel?
- 5. How would that work with the people you know, talk about it and brainstorm how you could share the truth of Jesus with people you know and love.
- 6. Standing between you and your ministry are obstacles, difficulties, dangers, and discouragement. We must be faith filled, Holy Spirit empowered, grace enabled followers of Jesus willing to crunch through the hard times to expand God's kingdom. Know this: it may be hard, but there is no burden too heavy for Jesus to carry! We do not face them alone, we have the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, working in us, in all circumstances!
- 7. In sharing the gospel with the one's you love and know: go after the one's who are hungry, because you can't feed people who don't want to eat.