

We will now begin the twelfth lecture on the book of Acts. /The main text is Acts 13.
/The title is "The Church of Antioch."

/First, the church of Antioch's mission work. /Verses 1-12. /(1) Sending of missionaries. /Verses 1-3. /(2) John, also called Mark, is taken as a servant. /Verse 4-5. /(3) Bar-Jesus becomes blind for hindering the gospel. /Verses 6-12.

/Next, there is a second great cause. /Second, evangelism in Pisidian Antioch. /Verses 13-43. /Third, the gospel is spread in the midst of persecutions. /Verses 44-52.

/Read 13:1-3. /In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with 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." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

/"Antioch" mentioned here is the Antioch in the region of Syria. /This was a Gentile city, yet there was a church in Antioch. /There were prophets in the church. /These "prophets" are like today's teachers.

/They were people who taught the Bible. /The "teachers" in the verse also taught the Bible. /Barnabas was a minister sent to the church of Jerusalem. /There was a man named Simeon called Niger.

/"Niger" was an African man. /There was a man named Manaen, who was brought up with Herod the tetrarch. /This man was a foster brother of Herod Antipas. /Some say that Manaen's mother was Herod's nanny.

/Manaen was a man of the royal line. /Then there was Saul. /There were many men, and these men worked together to diligently teach the Scriptures.

/The Holy Spirit told Barnabas and Saul to be missionaries. /Then the believers fasted and prayed, and placed their hands on the two men and sent them off. /Here we will look at the characteristics of the church of Antioch.

/First, it was a church that diligently taught the Word of God. /Barnabas and Saul taught the Bible for one year. /Acts 11:25-26. /In this way, there were many teachers within the church.

/It was a church that diligently educated its members. /Second, another characteristic of the church of Antioch was that it was strong in its spirit of cooperation. /There was no racism. /There was no racism between the Africans and Asians.

/Also, there was no ethnic discrimination. /The Jews and Gentiles cooperated in faith to bring up the church. /There was no social discrimination. /There was no discrimination of age. /There was no discrimination between the rich and poor.

/There was also no discrimination between the educated and uneducated. /In this way, everyone cooperated together to bring up the church. /Today, there must be no quarrels within the church regarding heredities or backgrounds.

/Next, the third characteristic of the church of Antioch was that they prayed together. /They fasted and prayed together. /They prayed when sending off missionaries. /A church that doesn't pray is a church that dies.

/Prayer keeps the church alive. /Fourth, it was a church that was led by the touch of the Holy Spirit. /The Holy Spirit told Barnabas and Saul to go as missionaries. /They obeyed.

/At the time, Barnabas and Saul were the principal members of the church of Antioch. /It was difficult to send such competent people. /Yet, the believers obeyed the commands of the Holy Spirit.

/Fifth, it was a church that was active in missions. /They sent missionaries to spread the gospel to Gentile people in foreign lands. /We must be active in missions so that those in foreign countries can also be saved.

/Verse 4. /The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

/Barnabas and Saul were sent by the Holy Spirit. /They sailed from Seleucia to Cyprus. /Cyprus is Barnabas' hometown. /They first arrived at Salamis on the island of Cyprus.

/Let's take a look at the map. /Here is Caesarea. /This is Sidon. /This is the land of Judea. /This is where Antioch is located. /Here is the island of Cyprus.

/This is Salamis. /This is an island in the Mediterranean. /The island of Cyprus. /Hence, Barnabas and Saul were first sent to Barnabas' hometown, Cyprus, for missions.

/In verse 5, they took John. /This is John, also called Mark. /The two men needed a helper for mission work. /John, also called Mark, is Barnabas' nephew. /Colossians 4:10.

/Verses 6-7. /They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

/There was an island called Paphos located in the eastern region of Cyprus. /There was a false prophet named Bar-Jesus. /This man was a sorcerer. /In verse 8, there was a man named Elymas. /He was also a sorcerer and a fortuneteller.

/There was also a proconsul named Sergius Paulus. /The proconsul wanted to hear the word of God through Barnabas and Saul. /However, the sorcerer Bar-Jesus kept the

proconsul from believing in Jesus.

/The proconsul had followed the false prophet until then. /Then the proconsul heard the word of God that Barnabas and Saul were preaching. /Thus, the false prophet tried to keep the proconsul from hearing the word of God.

/In verses 9-11, Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit. /Saul rebuked Bar-Jesus, the false prophet. /Saul rebuked him by saying that Bar-Jesus was “an enemy of everything that is right.” /Then Saul said, “you will be unable to see.”

/Hence, the false prophet, Bar-Jesus, immediately became blind. /In this way, those who hinder the gospel of God will become blind. /Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and rebuked Bar-Jesus.

/Paul rebuked the people by the power of God. /This man became blind because he stood against the gospel. /He opposed those who believed in Jesus so that they would not believe. /Matthew 18:6.

/From here, Saul is called Paul. /“Paul” in Rome means “small.” /Saul changed his name to Paul. /He changed his name to mean “small.” /This is Paul’s humility. /1 Timothy 1:13. /1 Corinthians 15:9.

/Verse 12. /When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

/The proconsul saw the works of God and received teachings about the Lord. /Then the number of those who believed in Jesus grew. /Many bore the fruit of faith.

/Verse 13. /From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

/They sailed from Paphos to Perga in Pamphylia. /Let’s take a look at the map. /They sailed from Cyprus to Perga. /This is the region of Asia Minor.

/They first evangelized in the region of Perga. /However, when they arrived in Perga, Mark ran away to his home in Jerusalem. /Mark faced great hardships in his mission work. /He received much persecution.

/It was difficult to travel from location to location and preach the gospel. /There were difficulties in eating and sleeping. /Also, many people tried to kill them. /Therefore, Mark couldn’t endure it any longer and ran away to his hometown.

/Yet, Mark later repented. /Then he recorded the gospel of Mark. /He became Paul’s partner. /2 Timothy 4:11.

/Verse 14-15. /From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered

the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak."

/They traveled inland from Perga. /They went to Pisidian Antioch. /They went to Pisidian Antioch and preached the gospel. /They went to the synagogue on the Sabbath, and they preached to the Jews.

/The synagogue rulers read from the Law and the Prophets, then encouraged Paul and Barnabas to speak. /The two men were given the opportunity to preach the gospel.

/God gave them a good opportunity. /Barnabas and Paul evangelized at the opportunity given them.

/Verse 17. /The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt, with mighty power he led them out of that country,

/They preached that God led the Israelites out of Egypt. /Then God led the Israelites in the wilderness for forty years. /Then God overthrew seven nations in Canaan.

/Then God gave the land to the Israelites as their inheritance. /Here it says, "about 450 years." /This is the period from when the Israelites entered Egypt to the time they received the Canaan land as their inheritance.

/The Israelites spent four hundred years in Egypt, forty years in the wilderness, and ten years conquering Canaan, which totals four hundred and fifty years. /They lived through the period of Samuel and the judges. /Then the Israelites asked for a king.

/God gave them Saul as king. /Then God dethroned King Saul.

/Verse 22. /After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

/God made David king. /God saw that David was a man after God's heart. /How did David become a man after God's heart?

/First, one must be a servant of God. /One must obey according to God's will. /One must chase after God wholeheartedly. /One must look towards the Lord. /Then one must do one honest things.

/One's conscience must be upright. /His life must always receive guidance from God. /His heart must be upright. /His spirit must communicate with God. /1 Samuel 16:7. /God looks at the heart.

/Then David relied on the power of God. /1 Samuel 17:45. /David defeated Goliath.

/Then David kept the commands of God and walked down the right path. /1 Kings 14:8.

/Therefore, our hearts must chase after God's heart. /King Saul was ruined because of his arrogance. /He was ruined because of his disobedience to God. /We must not be like Saul, but like David.

/Verse 23. /"From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.

/It was said that Christ would be a descendant of David. /This is Jesus. /Jesus is a descendant of David. /2 Samuel 7:12-16. /Jesus came as a descendant of David.

/Verses 24-25. /Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. As John was completing his work, he said: 'Who do you think I am? I am not that one. No, but he is coming after me, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.'

/God sent John the Baptist before Jesus came. /People received the baptism of repentance through John the Baptist. /John the Baptist testified to the coming Christ.

/John said that he was not worthy to untie the sandals of Christ. /John the Baptist only testified to Christ.

/Verse 26. /"Brothers, children of Abraham, and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent.

/It says, "this message of salvation has been sent." /The "message of salvation" is the gospel of Jesus Christ. /1 Corinthians 2:8. /The Jews read the Scriptures every Sabbath. / Yet, they did not know the spiritual meaning of it.

/Hence, the Jews condemned Jesus and put Him to death. /The center of the message of the prophets was Jesus Christ. /Yet, the Jews read the Old Testament but did not recognize Jesus.

/Instead, they condemned Jesus of having sins. /Jesus had no sins. /Yet, the Jews begged Pilate to kill Jesus. /This was all prophesied in the Old Testament. /Isaiah 53:1-12.

/Jesus died on the cross. /He rose again from the dead in three days. /Jesus defeated death and was resurrected. /Then the resurrected Jesus showed Himself many times.

/Verse 33. /he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: "'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'

/God said to Jesus, "You are my Son." /God said, "I have become your Father." /This meant that Jesus could come to this earth.

/Another way to put this is that the Word became flesh, /or the Incarnation. /It means that

Jesus came to this earth in physical form.

/Verse 34. /The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: "I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'

/Isaiah 55:3. /"God raised him from the dead, never to decay." /Psalm 16:10. /In this way, Jesus rose to life from the dead.

/The forefather David is dead and rotted away in the ground. /However, our Jesus did not rot but resurrected in three days.

/Verse 38. /"Therefore, my brothers, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

/It says, "through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you." /We have been forgiven of our sins through belief in Jesus. /This is the way to salvation. /This is the truth of redemption.

/Verse 39. /Through him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.

/We cannot be saved through the law. /No one can become righteous through the law. /Romans 3:10. /Romans 3:19-20.

/Verses 40-41. /Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you: "Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you."

/Peter quoted Habakkuk 1:5. /It means that their forefathers perished for scorning the words of the prophets. /This means, "you too will perish if you don't believe in the gospel of Christ." /The gospel was now spread through the Holy Spirit.

/This means that we should now believe the gospel through the Holy Spirit. /God accomplished his works of salvation. /God does not look at the appearance. /Therefore, we must believe in Jesus and be saved through the Holy Spirit.

/We must look at Christ and His works. /If we look at others' appearances and scorn Jesus, we too will perish.

/Verse 42. /As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath.

/The people asked Paul and Barnabas to speak again on the next Sabbath. /Once Paul began to evangelize, people wanted to hear more. /There were people who began to believe.

/Verse 43. /When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

/Many devout converts followed Paul and Barnabas. /Then they wanted to believe in Jesus. /Barnabas and Paul urged them to always be in the grace of God.

/Many people gathered on the next Sabbath. /Many people gathered to hear the Word of God. /However, there were people who were filled with jealousy towards Paul.

/There were people who talked abusively against what Paul was saying. /The devil works against the gospel, and brings out jealousy in people.

/Therefore, Paul and Barnabas went to a different location. /They traveled to different locations when they were persecuted. /Still, those who are appointed for eternal life will ultimately believe. /However, those who do not receive the gospel will not gain eternal life. /Isaiah 49:6.

/The gospel was first given to the Israelites. /However, they did not believe and therefore, the gospel was given to the Gentiles.

/No one can hinder the spreading of the truth of God. /When we are rejected here, we can go to another place. /The gospel will continue to win.

/Verses 48-49. /When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

/The Gentiles heard the gospel and were glad. /All who were appointed for eternal life believed. /Those who were appointed to believe in the gospel before God, believed.

/There are the chosen and the unchosen. /We cannot know who the chosen are, and who the unchosen are. /Therefore, we must proclaim the gospel. /Then those who are chosen will believe in the gospel and be saved.

/Verse 50. /But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.

/The Jews incited the people. /They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas. /Then Paul and Barnabas were expelled from the region. /Therefore, they went away to another place to evangelize.

/Verse 51. /So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.

/Therefore, Paul and Barnabas went to Iconium. /The two men shook the dust from their feet and went to Iconium. /What does it mean to shake the dust from one's feet?
/Matthew 10:14.

/This means that this will be evidence in the Last Days that these people did not believe. /
It also means that the two men would not accept even a speck of dust from that area.
/They would not accept even the smallest amount of help.

/Verse 52. /And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

/Paul and Barnabas were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. /They were filled with joy even when they were persecuted.

/Next we will dive into chapter 14. /We will continue the lecture with chapter 14. /The title of chapter 14 is "Evangelism in Iconium and Lystra."

/First, evangelism in Iconium. /Verses 1-7. /Second, evangelism in Lystra. /Verses 8-18. /
Third, the church becomes strong. /Verses 19-28.

/Read verse 1. /At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.

/Let's take a look at the map. /The two men traveled from Perga to Pisidian Antioch. /
From there, they went to Iconium. /Then to Lystra. /Then to Derbe. /Iconium is located 140 kilometers east of Pisidian Antioch.

/Iconium is 140 kilometers from Pisidian Antioch. /The two men first evangelized to the Jews. /
Then a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed in Jesus.

/Hence, the Jews who did not believe became angry once again. /The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles.

/Verse 3. /So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.

/Barnabas and Paul diligently preached the gospel. /Also, there were many miraculous signs and wonders. /
Through the miraculous signs and wonders, many people came to believe in Jesus. /Those who were against the believers became afraid.

/Then there were people in the city of Iconium who believed, and there were those who did not believe. /
Those who were chosen came to believe. /When evangelizing, there are always people who believe, and those who do not believe.

/The Jews stirred up the people. /They tried to kill Barnabas and Paul. /Then Paul and Barnabas fled. /
They fled to Lystra and Derbe. /Then they continued to preach the gospel

there.

/Lystra is located 30 kilometers south of Iconium. /Derbe is located 27 kilometers from Lystra.

/Verses 8-10. /In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

/There was a crippled man in Lystra. /He listened to Paul as he spoke. /Paul knew that this man had faith to be saved.

/Therefore, Paul called out, "Stand up on your feet!" /Then the crippled man stood. /The Holy Spirit gave this man faith to believe.

/Thus, Paul called in a loud voice, "Stand up." /The crippled man knew that it was a command from God. /He stood by the power of God. /Paul was held by God.

/Paul had the power of God with him that made the crippled man stand. /The crippled man also believed and obeyed God's word. /The crippled man stood. /Then many people believed that Paul and Barnabas were gods.

/Verse 12. /Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.

/People believed that Paul and Barnabas were gods. /They believed that the gods came to them in human form. /They called Barnabas, Zeus. /This is the supreme god.

/They called Paul, Hermes. /Hermes is the gods' envoy. /Hermes is the gods' messenger and orator. /Therefore, the priest of the temple of Zeus came with bulls and wreaths to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas.

/They believed that Barnabas and Paul were gods. /At this, Barnabas and Paul tore their clothes. /The priest of the temple of Zeus did not know the truth.

/They did not know the true God. /Therefore, Paul and Barnabas taught them the truth.

/Verse 15. /"Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.

/Paul and Barnabas told the people that they were not gods. /"We are human like you." /"We are men who are bringing you good news." /"Turn from these worthless things." /"Believe in the Creator God who is alive."

/“Come before the living God.” /What is the purpose of spreading the gospel? /It is to tell people to throw away worthless idols. /They must return to God and gain eternal life through belief in redemption and the truth.

/Verse 16. /In the past, he let all nations go their own way.

/The “past” refers to the generation before the gospel appeared. /They had their own way in serving idols. /This does not mean that worshiping idols is acceptable. /Idol worship is sin.

/To “go their own way” means that God let them be. /Romans 1:24-25. /It means that now, the gospel will be preached to these people and God will save them.

/Verse 17. /Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy."

/God is the God who gives rain. /He is the God who gives us food and joy. /God is the God of wisdom and power. /He is the God who is good and who pours out his love.

/Therefore, we must believe in the Creator God. /We must believe in Jesus.

/Verse 19. /Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

/The unbelieving Jews stoned Paul to kill him. /Paul and Barnabas received great persecution in Lystra. /Then these wicked people left Paul, thinking he was dead. /God used Paul and Barnabas to give the crippled man the ability to stand and walk.

/God’s great power was seen here. /Then the works of the devil took place. /Paul was almost killed in Lystra. /2 Corinthians 1:8. /The persecution was so great that he almost lost hope to live.

/Yet, Paul evangelized, prepared to die. /Philippians 1:21-23. /He considered it an honor to die for the gospel.

/Verse 20. /But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

/Paul got up. /He went to Derbe with Barnabas. /God’s power saved Paul. /There was still work left for Paul. /Paul had a calling from God.

/Therefore, Paul took the gospel and evangelized in Derbe. /Then he went back to areas he previously evangelized at. /Let’s take a look at the map. /He went to Iconium.

/Then he went to Lystra. /He made the crippled man walk, then was almost stoned to

death. /Then he went to Derbe. /Then he traveled back. /He went from Derbe to Lystra.

/He then went from Lystra to Iconium. /He traveled from Iconium to Pisidian Antioch.
/He went back to this location.

/Verse 22. /strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.
"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

/Paul and Barnabas went to places they evangelized at, and strengthened the faith of the disciples. /They encouraged them to remain true to their faith. /They encouraged the disciple to remain firm.

/This meant to remain firm in the truth. /This meant to be courageous. /Paul encouraged and strengthened the believers. /Then he said that they must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.

/When we participate in sufferings and in the sufferings of Christ, we will participate in the glory of Christ. /1 Peter 4:13. /We will participate in the power of the Lord.
/Philippians 3:10-11. /Our spirits will mature. /Hebrews 5:13.

/There will also be great rewards in heaven. /Matthew 5:10-12. /Therefore, we must accept that there will be sufferings and go forward. /We must overcome sufferings through faith.

/Verse 23. /Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

/Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in each church. /They appointed leaders. /They appointed people to be in charge. /Paul could not teach everyone. /Thus, the men appointed leaders in each church that they built up to be in charge of.

/Then Paul fasted. /He asked of the Lord. /The church can only grow when God works in the church. /Men are servants. /The owner of the church is God. /God personally works in the church.

/Verses 24-25. /After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

/The two men went through Pamphylia to Perga to preach the gospel. /Then they went down to Attalia. /Attalia is about 27 kilometers from Perga. /Then from Attalia they sailed back to Antioch.

/This is Antioch in Syria. /Acts 13:1. /This church is the headquarters of world missions. /The church of Antioch previously sent off Barnabas and Saul for mission work. /The two men returned to this church, their home church, and reported all that that happened in their mission work.

/Verses 27-28. /On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

/They returned to Antioch and gave a report on all that God had done through them. /There was much fruit among the Gentiles. /The number of believers grew. /God opened the door of faith. /The believers gave thanks after hearing the report.

/The disciples stayed there a long time. /Barnabas and Paul preached in the church of Antioch. /Even in the midst of sufferings, we too must do mission work just as Paul and Barnabas did.

/The gospel will have the final victory. /God is always with us. /Therefore, we must have faith like that of Paul and Barnabas.

/Here we will conclude the twelfth lecture on Acts. /Thank you.