

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 02.21.2021

DISCIPLESHIP IS CAUGHT NOT TAUGHT – Acts 13:1-12

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Acts 13 begins the most daring and challenging step ever taken by any organization in the entire world, to bring the gospel to every nation! The Church is now launched forth, making a deliberate choice to carry the Gospel to the whole world. This Antioch Church remained committed to Global Impact and got busy Raising up Leaders to become 'International Change Agents.' This thrived because of their Vision to send out Leaders as a Team – members with complimentary gifts and a Shared Vision. They were able to connect with people and produce results everywhere they went! May God use Maranatha to be an Antioch of our day! The Antioch Church was the Lord's Choice to become the Evangelistic Center of the World. This Church reached out to everyone throughout the community. It reached all classes of people, all nationalities and all races. No one was excluded, all were invited to join. Jesus said "I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Let's get into our lesson...

1. What stood out to you during this week's study?
2. How do you feel when the Lord tells you to obey His call to be a witness to others? (Excited, anxious, worried...explain?)

Today we will be studying about the first missionary journey of Barnabas and Saul. We will see that Saul has his name changed to Paul. Saul was the name of the first king of Israel. He had been a big and powerful man. Before Saul followed Christ, he had been a proud Pharisee. He thought of himself as being a strong and powerful man. Now he was following Christ. It did not matter to him if he had power any more. Instead he wanted others to see Christ through his life...

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 13:1-8

1. Name some teachers and prophets in the church at Antioch – 13:1,2 (What is a prophet? What were they doing? When do you fast and pray?)
2. Tell who was separated for a special work, and describe how it was done? – 13:2,3.
3. Where did they go first, and who went with them – 13:4,5? (Note: Trace the travels of Paul on a map as our study proceeds. Use the maps section of your Bible.)
4. Name and describe two men they found at Paphos – 13:6,7.
5. What did Elymas do wrong – 13:8? (What are the ways someone today might turn aside another person from the faith?)

The Spirit clearly designated whom He wanted the church to send out as missionaries. He said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." The church at Antioch recognized that the Lord had called these two men for His special work. Recognizing and answering the Lord's call began with the individual believer. The church, however, played an important role in commissioning the missionaries whom the Lord had called.

Visitation/Restoration in 2021

6. When God clearly calls you to share your faith with someone, do you realize that the enemy will oppose you? How do you respond? Do you give up or push forward, explain?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 13:9-12

7. What new name was used for Saul beginning in 13:9? (What is the difference between these two names?)

8. What consequence came on Elymas for his wrong doing– 13:10,11? (Were Bible miracles always done to help people overcome a physical problem? What can we learn about how God used miracles?)

9. What effect did this miracle have on Sergius Paulus – 13:12?

10. What lessons have you learned for your own life about praying for the Lord to guide you as you serve Him?

The first place that Barnabas and Saul went was to the island of Cyprus. Barnabas had grown up on the island of Cyprus and was probably very concerned about the people on that island. This is also the place that we read Saul had his name changed to Paul. As Paul and Barnabas preached, the governor of the island became interested. Then a sorcerer (one who practices witchcraft) tried to stop the governor from listening to Paul. As a result, Paul prayed that the sorcerer would become blind for a time. Immediately God struck the sorcerer with blindness.

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

As the apostles were called by the Holy Spirit so are we! Every believer is called to obey the Lord and share their faith. Pastor Ray shared 5 Encouraging things these obedient believers experienced and we can to:

1) They were sons of God – “All who are led by God’s Spirit are God’s sons” (Romans 8:14) - 2) The Holy Spirit Would Be Abiding With Them - “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever” (John 14:16) - 3) The Holy Spirit Would Be Guiding Them - However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13) - 4) The Holy Spirit Would Be Giving Them The Words To Say – “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26) - 5) True Discipleship Is Caught Not Taught.

1. How would you define a disciple of Jesus verses a convert?
2. How would you contrast knowing the Bible very well verse obeying what the Bible says?
3. What does the phrase “True discipleship is caught not taught” mean to you, explain?
4. As the Lord reveals His will to you this week, will you commit to obey what He says to do?

PRAYER - Close in prayer, thanking God for His power at work in you, transforming us into Jesus’ image and working through us to bring more people to Him. Ask the Lord to help you to be a true disciple and seek to obey all that the Holy Spirt leads you to do!

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you. “This I command you, that you love one another.” (Jn 15:16-17)