

## Introduction

We saw last week that Barnabas and Paul were called by the Lord to apostolic ministry. The Holy Spirit told the leadership team at Antioch to set apart Barnabas and Paul for the work He had for them to do. God had plans for their lives. Even when Paul was persecuting the church, God's plans for Paul were already established. On the road to Damascus He revealed Himself to Paul, and told him "it is hard to kick against the goads." God is sovereign, and all of His counsel and His plans will be fulfilled. We do not want to kick against the goads either. We want to be on board with God's plans and purposes.

(Acts 26:14) "And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'"

Bill Bice shared last week that the Lord had told them two words. The first word is faithful, and the second word is fruitful. If we want to be fruitful, we need to be faithful in carrying out God's plans here in the East Mountains and the greater Albuquerque area. God wants us to save souls and make disciples.

Barnabas and Paul knew God's plans. They knew that He had commissioned the church to go preach the gospel and make disciples. Paul knew that he was specifically called to preach the gospel to the Gentiles and kings, and the sons of Israel. God revealed those plans directly to Paul, and then confirmed them through Ananias. Paul could not stay in Antioch and carry out the plans and the work that God had for him to accomplish.

(Acts 9:15) "But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;"

It is good to know God's general plans, and it is also good to know His specific plans for our lives. Once we know that, God expects us to make plans. In Proverbs 16, He tells us that the plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue belongs to the Lord. God has given us the responsibility of planning our work.

(Pro 16:1) "The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD."

When Barnabas and Paul were sent out, I believe that they took time to plan their first apostolic trip. They made broader plans which included things like their goals, and where they were going to go. We call these strategic plans. I believe that they also had specific plans on how to reach the people in each of the places that they went. Their plan included how they were going to evangelize the whole island of Cyprus. We call these tactical plans. Tactical planning looks at the goals outlined in the strategic plans, and then makes specific and detailed plans to accomplish those broader goals.

Solomon also tells us in Proverbs 16 that we need to commit our works to the Lord so that our plans will be established. I believe that Barnabas and Paul took time to commit their work and their trip to Cyprus to the Lord. As we will see in the text today, their plans for Cyprus were established. The whole island of Cyprus was evangelized.

(Pro 16:3) “Commit your works to the LORD And your plans will be established.”

This morning, we are going to look at the team that they took. Second, we will look at their plan to spread the gospel throughout the island of Cyprus. Third, we will look at how the gospel message was preached with power, and their plans were established. Our text this morning is Acts 13:4-12, and I have entitled it: The Evangelization of Cyprus. Let’s read our text.

### The Evangelization of Cyprus

1. The Team Members
2. The Tactical Plan
3. The Teaching with Power

(Acts 13:4-12) “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. {5} When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper. {6} When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, {7} who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. {8} But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. {9} But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, {10} and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? {11} "Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand. {12} Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord.”

### 1. The Team Members

The first apostolic journey consisted of Barnabas, Paul, and John, who was their helper. Later on, Barnabas and Paul added many other team members. The book of Acts was written by Luke, who later on became one of Paul’s team members. He was able to give us first-hand accounts of the things that took place. **Barnabas and Paul were set apart by God for this work.** Let’s take a look at each of the team members.

(Acts 13:4-5) “So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. {5} When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.

Barnabas is the team leader. He was the Lead Pastor at Antioch, and he is now the apostolic team leader. We know this because of the order that the names are given. God said, “Set apart Barnabas and Paul for the work...” We also know in Acts 14 that at Lystra the people began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes. In Greek mythology, Zeus was the chief God, and the father of Hermes. Hermes was known for being wise, cunning, and the chief spokesman for Zeus. While Paul was the chief speaker, the people acknowledged that Barnabas was the leader. Many theologians refer to this first apostolic journey as Paul’s first apostolic journey, which it was. But, it should really be referred to as Barnabas’ first apostolic journey, since he was the leader.

(Acts 14:12-14) “And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. {13} The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. {14} But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out...”

We saw in Acts 4 that Barnabas was from Cyprus. He was a prophet, and because of that, he was called Barnabas instead of Joseph, which was his real name. He was a Jew, from the tribe of Levi, but he was born in Cyprus. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that men from Cyprus and Cyrene had preached the gospel in Antioch, they sent Barnabas. Because he was from Cyprus, he was a natural fit for the job.

(Acts 4:36) “Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),”

(Acts 11:20) “But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.”

The next person on the team is Paul. He is from Tarsus, in the province of Cilicia. But, Paul did not grow up in Tarsus. He moved to Jerusalem, where he was educated as a Pharisee under the strict instruction of Gamaliel. The team of Barnabas and Paul was a very powerful team. They both had strong religious backgrounds, and were both very well versed in the Scriptures.

(Acts 21:39) “But Paul said, ‘I am a Jew of Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no insignificant city; and I beg you, allow me to speak to the people.’”

(Acts 22:3) “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for God just as you all are today.”

The third member of the team was John Mark. They brought him along to be their helper. He was not a seasoned minister like Barnabas and Paul. He was really just an apprentice, who is there to help and to learn from Barnabas and Paul. Why did they bring John Mark along? It was quite simple. He was Barnabas’ cousin. In Paul’s letter to the Colossians, he tells us that John Mark is Barnabas’ cousin. We find another connection in Acts 12. When Peter is imprisoned, and the church is praying fervently for him, they were holding that prayer meeting at Mary’s house. Luke tells us that Mary is the mother of John Mark. That means that Mary is Barnabas’ mother’s sister or Barnabas’ father’s sister. Barnabas and his family are quite well known in the church in Jerusalem.

(Col 4:10) “Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);”

(Acts 12:12) “And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.”

In Acts 11, some prophets prophesied that there would be a famine. The church at Antioch acted on that prophecy, even though the famine had not happened yet, and they sent a gift to the elders in Jerusalem for the relief of the saints. At the end of Acts 12, Barnabas and Paul return from taking this

gift, and they bring Barnabas' cousin, John Mark, back with them to Antioch. I believe that Mary, his mother, was likely a widow, as her husband is not mentioned in the account in Acts 12. I also believe that Barnabas was taking him in as a son. John Mark needed a father, and in particular, he needed a spiritual father. Barnabas became that spiritual father to him, and took him with him to Antioch. As they start this apostolic journey, it was only natural to take John Mark with them.

The application we get from this is that discipleship starts at home. **Discipleship starts with our own family members.** If we do not make disciples of our own children, how can we effectively disciple those outside of our family. We need to pray for our children. We need to sow into our children. We also need to pray and sow into our extended family members, which includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and cousins, like John Mark. As a church, we do not want to focus on one age group or segment of the population. We want to reach households. We want to be like Barnabas, and reach out to our own family members.

## 2. The Tactical Plan

Barnabas and Paul are sent out by the Holy Spirit, and they went down to Seleucia. They left Antioch and went down to Seleucia. Seleucia is on the Orontes River, which flows into the Mediterranean Sea. It is at an elevation of 260 feet. As you move south towards Antioch, you go up in elevation. The highest point is 1,510 feet, just south of Antioch. So, Barnabas and Paul literally went down to the Orontes River and caught a ship sailing to Cyprus.

(Acts 13:4) "So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus."

We do not know if they left that day, or whether there was several months before they left. It is my opinion that there was a period of time between being sent out, and when they actually left. I believe that they made comprehensive plans for the upcoming trip. Their strategic plans included finances, all the places that they were going to go, and their approach to reaching cities.

On this trip, they started in Salamis, Cyprus. They went throughout the island of Cyprus, ending up in Paphos. From there they went to Perga in Pamphylia. Then, they went to Pisidian Antioch. Next, they went to Iconium, Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and the surrounding region. Then, they went to Attalia, and made their way back to Antioch. I believe this was part of their strategic planning.

I believe that they also made plans about how to evangelize each city, district, or area. For example, in Acts 17, Paul and Silas came to Thessalonica. They found a synagogue of the Jews and according to Paul's custom, he went there and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead. This custom began earlier in Paul's ministry. I believe that Barnabas and Paul made a decision to go to the synagogues for three weeks and then turn to the Gentiles. This was part of their tactical plan in Thessalonica, and in other cities.

(Acts 17:1-3) "Now when...they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. {2} And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, {3} explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

Barnabas and Paul were committed to going to the Jews first. It was part of their plan. Jesus came to the Jews first. In Romans 1, Paul said, “for I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Paul was committed to going to the Jew first. Therefore, they made plans in each place to find a Jewish synagogue, or a place where the Jews assembled. I believe that Barnabas and Paul took a little time to plan their trip before going down to Seleucia.

(Rom 1:16) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

They took a ship from Seleucia to Cyprus. Cyprus is an island in the Eastern Basin of the Mediterranean Sea. It was about an 80-mile journey from Seleucia to Salamis. The island of Cyprus is 149 miles long and 62 miles wide. The island is dominated by two mountain ranges, the Troodos Mountains and the Kyrenia Mountains, and a central plain between them. From April through October it is warm and dry. Their rainy season is between November and March. Cyprus was famous for its copper resources. In fact the very word copper is derived from the Greek name for the island, Kupros. In the 1st century, Cyprus was most noted for its copper and its devotion to the goddess Aphrodite. Because of their worship of Aphrodite, it became known as the “Island of Love.”

Why did they go to Cyprus? It is not a coincidence that Barnabas and Paul head to Cyprus first. I believe that Barnabas knew people in Cyprus. I believe that he had a heart for the people in his homeland. When we start thinking about an evangelistic plan, I do not believe you start with the uttermost parts of the earth. **Evangelism starts in your own Jerusalem, and then goes to Judea and Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth.** Barnabas’ Jerusalem was Cyprus. That is where he was from, and that is the first place that Barnabas, Paul, and John will go.

Their ship took them to Salamis, which is on the east side of the island. Notice that they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. Barnabas was a Levite, and he was from Cyprus. They probably had a fair amount of Jews living on the island. It said that they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. There were obviously more than one, and they began to go to each of the synagogues and proclaim Jesus. They were working their plan of going to the Jews first. Luke does not give us much detail, but based on what Luke has told us in Acts 17, it would be pretty safe to say that they reached out to the Jews for three weeks in Salamis before turning towards the Gentiles.

(Acts 13:5) “When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper.”

There is a big gap between verse five and six. It says, “when they had gone through the whole island, as far as Paphos....” That is saying a lot. They started at the east coast, and finished up on the west coast. They had preached the gospel from one end of the island to the other end. They went through all 3,568 square miles of the island with the gospel. That would be about the same size area as going from just north of Santa Fe to just below Mountainaire, and going from Clines Corner to west of Albuquerque. Barnabas, Paul, and John Mark preached the gospel throughout this whole area. We do not know exactly how many cities, towns, and villages it included. Nikosia is the current capital of Cyprus, is 4,500 years old. It was a well established city when Barnabas and Paul were there. The only towns mentioned in the text are Salamis, where they started, and Paphos, where they ended.

(Acts 13:6a) “When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos...”

Paphos was the capital at that time. In Greek mythology, it was thought to be the birthplace of Aphrodite. Sergius Paulus was the proconsul, or governor, of Cyprus, and that was where he was living. There are monuments and other artifacts that have his name on them that have been discovered in Paphos, so the historical evidence supports Luke’s account.

Barnabas’ and Paul’s plan included the spreading the gospel throughout the island of Cyprus. Their plan included the Jews and the Gentiles. It included all the cities and towns throughout the island. Bible scholars tell us that the whole first missionary trip took two years, from 45 A.D. to 47 A.D. This was just the first stop. They had 1,150 more miles to travel on this first journey. A safe guess is that may have covered this island in a couple of months. **One of the many great benefits of planning is it helps you accomplish things within an established time frame.** It is very clear that Barnabas and Paul committed their works to the Lord, and their plans were established.

What about the East Mountain Vineyard Church? If three men can cover that area in a matter of months, what could a church full of people that are on fire for the Lord do in a year? Bill Bice is working on a plan for corporate outreach. Everyone in the body can participate in some form or another. Can we fully preach the gospel from Santa Fe to Mountaineer? Can we fully preach the gospel from Clines Corner to Rio Rancho? We need to ask God to help us plan our outreach.

### 3. The Teaching with Power

The greatest amount of time happened in the first three verses of our passage. But, the greatest amount of detail are about the encounter with Sergius Paulus, the governor, which probably took place over a day or two.

When Barnabas and Paul reached Paphos, they came across a magician and false prophet, named Bar-Jesus. He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. Luke describes him as a man of intelligence. **Sergius had a spiritual thirst to hear the word of God.** He was searching for God. Luke said that he “sought to hear the word of God.” The Greek word is epizeteo (Strong’s G1934), which means to earnestly crave, desire, or seek after. God has put a desire and thirst in all of us that can only be met in a relationship with the Lord.

(Acts 13:6-7) “When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they found a magician, a Jewish false prophet whose name was Bar-Jesus, {7} who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God.”

The woman at the well had the same thirst. Jesus told her that “whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” Do you have a thirst this morning? Have you tasted of that water that springs up to eternal life? Do you have a hunger and thirst to hear the word of God?

(John 4:14) “but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

Sergius had Elymas, the magician, with him. There are many people who are searching in the wrong places for spiritual answers. They look in false religions, cults, and in the occult. Today, there are lots of people in the new age and witchcraft, particularly in New Mexico. They are no different than Sergius. They are looking in the wrong places. Even though Elymas was a false prophet, he tells Sergius about Barnabas and Paul.

The governor of Cyprus summoned Barnabas and Paul to come to him. Remember God's call to Paul. The Lord said that Paul was his chosen instrument to bear His name before the Gentiles, the sons of Israel, and kings. We have some ability to go to certain people groups. However, you have to be summoned or invited to stand before kings. This was God's plan and purpose for Paul. This had God written all over it. **We must yield ourselves to God, do the things that we can, and trust God to accomplish His plans through us.** God gives Barnabas and Paul a divine appointment with the ruler of the island.

(Acts 9:15) "But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;"

When we planted a church in Acworth, Georgia, we sought to work with the mayor of Acworth. We called the mayor, introduced ourselves, and asked if there was anything that we could help with. We also asked if there was anything that we could pray for them about. I was invited to one of the council meetings, and was also asked to give an opening prayer for the council meeting. Sometimes, getting in front of those in authority is a matter of coming with a servant's heart. Many people come asking those in authority to do something for them. We came asking how we could serve the mayor.

Bar Jesus, or Elymas, opposed Barnabas and Paul. Elymas means wizard or magician, which is what he was. He opposed the ministry of Barnabas and Paul, and sought to turn the proconsul away from the faith. **There will be spiritual opposition to preaching the gospel.** I want to make a couple of statements about opposition. Barnabas and Paul are God's servants. They are doing God's work. If anyone comes against them, they are coming against God.

(Acts 13:8) "But Elymas the magician (for so his name is translated) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith."

I don't think people have a fear of the Lord when it comes time to coming against God's servants. I am very careful about what I say about other ministers and ministries. I may not agree with John MacArthur about a number of things, but he is God's servant, not mine. I need to be very careful about what I say. I do not want to be opposing God's work, and that is what John is doing.

A couple of years ago, a couple started going to our church. They did not stay long. At that time Betty was getting ready to do a Beth Moore study. This lady read something on the internet that was bad about Beth Moore. She wrote an email to Betty and blasted Beth Moore, and us for using Beth's study. Beth Moore is a good Bible teacher. Furthermore, she is God's servant and is doing God's work. We must be very careful about speaking against God's servants and opposing God's work. I have said things that I should not have said, or I have said things at the wrong time, or in the wrong way. We all have stumbled in what we have said. Beth Moore is no different than any of us. She has stumbled in what she has said. We have to forgive, and we have to give grace. We need to be very careful about opposing God's servants and God's work.

There have been some that have come against our work at the East Mountain Vineyard. I get a little worked up when I hear about people saying negative things about the work we are doing. God told us to plant this church. This is God's church; He is the head of this church. We are His servants and we are doing His work. If someone comes against this church, they are opposing God's work. They are doing the same thing that Elymas was doing. They better be careful about doing that. It did not go so well for Miriam when she opposed Moses. It does not go so well for Elymas when he opposed Barnabas and Paul. **God's kingdom does not consist of words, but of power.** Elymas is getting ready to find this out.

(1 Cor 4:20) "For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power."

Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him and said, "you who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time." and immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand." Whoa! Those were strong words. Those were powerful words. They did not come from Paul, but from the Holy Spirit. God was not happy about Elymas opposing His work. God brought judgment upon Elymas. Church, I think those that speak against other churches need to be careful. Those who speak against our church need to be careful. God is going to support those whose heart is completely His, and He is going to support His work being done on earth. Those opposing it should take heed to what happened to Elymas.

(Acts 13:9-11a) "But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, {10} and said, "You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord? {11} "Now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and not see the sun for a time."

How many of you know that we are in a spiritual battle. We wrestle "not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places." Barnabas and Paul are keenly aware of this spiritual battle against the forces of darkness. Paul tells Elymas that he is on the wrong side. He is a son of the devil, and is opposing righteousness and the ways of the Lord. Paul, being filled with the Holy Spirit, renders a judgment on Elymas. **Because it is a spiritual battle, we need spiritual discernment in our outreach.**

(Eph 6:12) "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

The result was that a mist and a darkness fell upon Elymas, and he went about seeking those who lead him by hand. This was a demonstration of power to both Elymas and Sergius. The proconsul believed when he saw what happened. He was amazed at the teaching of the Lord with power.

(Acts 13:11b) "And immediately a mist and a darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking those who would lead him by the hand. {12} Then the proconsul believed when he saw what had happened, being amazed at the teaching of the Lord."



**Paul taught with power and authority.** This was not an isolated event in Paul's ministry. Look at what Paul says to the Corinthians. "My message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God." Apparently, his preaching of the gospel in Corinth had some similar manifestations of power so that their faith also rested on the power of God. The church at Corinth experienced the same teaching with power that Sergius witnessed.

(1 Cor 2:4-5) "and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, {5} so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God."

It is not just Paul who preached with power. **Jesus taught with power and authority.** In Luke 4, after Jesus had been filled with the Holy Spirit and had been tempted in the wilderness, He went to Capernaum and was teaching on the Sabbath. The people were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority.

(Luke 4:31-32) "And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; {32} and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority."

A few verses later, Luke records that "amazement came upon them all, and they began talking with one another saying, 'what is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out.'"

(Luke 4:36) "And amazement came upon them all, and they began talking with one another saying, "What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out."

## **Conclusion**

This morning we have seen how a team of three turned an island upside down. They preached the gospel to an entire island. They preached the gospel in a short time to every town in a 3,600 square mile area. How did they do it? They were called and set apart for the work. Church, we have more than three people. God has called our church into existence. He told us to plant a vineyard in the East Mountains. This is our island of Cyprus. He wants the gospel to go forth. He wants to see people saved. He wants lives to be made whole. He wants marriages to be healed. He wants to set captives free.

He wants all of us to be involved. Paul wrote the church at Philippi and told them to strive together for the faith of the gospel. He wants our church to do the same thing. Bill Bice is developing a corporate plan for evangelism. Be in prayer for Bill as he seeks the Lord for a plan for our church. God wants us to be fruitful. He wants us to bear much fruit. We need every member of this team to do its part. We need a plan. Finally, just as Sergius saw the word of God preached with power, we need God's power to confirm the teaching of the Lord. The early church prayed for God to extend His hand to heal, and for signs, and wonders to take place through the name of Jesus. They also prayed that they would speak the word with confidence or boldness.

(Acts 4:29-31) "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants

may speak Your word with all confidence, {30} while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus." {31} And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness."

This morning, I want us to pray about these things. First, I want us to pray for wisdom and direction in making plans for outreach. Second, I want us to pray that we would be set apart for His work in this area. Third, I want us to pray for us to speak the word with boldness. Fourth, I want us to pray for the word to go out with power. We want to pray for God to extend His hand to heal, and for signs and wonders.

But before we pray together corporately for those four things, there may be someone here this morning that has a spiritual thirst. You identified with Sergius Paulus, and you have this desire, craving, and thirst. The only way to satisfy that thirst is to invite Christ into your life. He promises to satisfy that thirst, and He also says that out of your innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. If that is you this morning, I invite you to come forward to receive Christ into your life.

Others of you may have some other kind of need. This morning, if you have a need of any kind, we want to pray for you. We want to give an opportunity for God to extend His hand for healing. If you need healing, let us pray with you.

Let's pray.

1. Pray for wisdom and direction in making plans for outreach.
2. Pray that we would be set apart for His work in this area, and that we would strive together for the faith of the gospel.
3. Pray for us to speak the word with boldness.
4. Pray for the word to go out with power. Pray for God to extend His hand to heal, and for signs and wonders.

**Introduction** (Acts 26:14, 9:15, Pro 16:1, 16:3, Acts 13:4-12)**1. The Team Members** (Acts 13:4-5, 14:12-14, 4:36, 11:20, 12:12, 21:39, 22:3, Col 4:10)

- Barnabas and Paul were \_\_\_\_\_ by God for this work.
- Discipleship starts with our own \_\_\_\_\_ members.

**2. The Tactical Plan** (Acts 13:4-6, 17:1-3, Rom 1:16, Act

- Evangelism starts in your own \_\_\_\_\_, and then goes to Judea and Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. (Acts 1:8)
- One of the many great benefits of planning is it helps you accomplish things within an established \_\_\_\_\_ frame.

**3. The Teaching with Power**

- Sergius had a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ to hear the word of God. (Acts 13:6-7, John 4:14)
- We must \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to God, \_\_\_\_\_ the things that we can, and \_\_\_\_\_ God to accomplish His plans through us. (Acts 9:15)
- There will be spiritual opposition to preaching the \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 13:8)
- God's kingdom does not consist of words, but of \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Cor 4:20, Acts 13:9-11a)
- Because it is a spiritual battle, we need spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ in our outreach. (Eph 6:12, Acts 13:11b)
- Paul taught with \_\_\_\_\_ and authority. (1 Cor 2:4-5)
- Jesus taught with \_\_\_\_\_ and authority. (Luke 4:31-32, 4:36)

**Conclusion** (Acts 4:29-31)

1. Pray for wisdom and direction in making plans for outreach.
2. Pray that we would be set apart for His work in this area, and that we would strive together for the faith of the gospel.
3. Pray for us to speak the word with boldness.
4. Pray for the word to go out with power. Pray for God to extend His hand to heal, and for signs and wonders.

**Introduction** (Acts 26:14, 9:15, Pro 16:1, 16:3, Acts 13:4-12)**1. The Team Members** (Acts 13:4-5, 14:12-14, 4:36, 11:20, 12:12, 21:39, 22:3, Col 4:10)

- Barnabas and Paul were \_\_\_\_\_ by God for this work.
- Discipleship starts with our own \_\_\_\_\_ members.

**2. The Tactical Plan** (Acts 13:4-6, 17:1-3, Rom 1:16, Act

- Evangelism starts in your own \_\_\_\_\_, and then goes to Judea and Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. (Acts 1:8)
- One of the many great benefits of planning is it helps you accomplish things within an established \_\_\_\_\_ frame.

**3. The Teaching with Power**

- Sergius had a spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ to hear the word of God. (Acts 13:6-7, John 4:14)
- We must \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves to God, \_\_\_\_\_ the things that we can, and \_\_\_\_\_ God to accomplish His plans through us. (Acts 9:15)
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