

# The First Missionary Journey

## Session Ten

“Nobody has yet caught the vision taking the good news to the nations overseas. Now at last, however that momentous step is to be taken” (215).

### Acts 12:25-13:12

“[A]nd sent them off...” Antioch became a \_\_\_\_\_ church. It’s hard to let people go, but a missional church recognizes the importance of releasing people as part of God’s plan.

Elymas (v. 8) is a Semitic name which means “sorcerer” or “magician”.

T / F Barnabas was born on Cyprus.

V. 9. From here on, Saul is Paul.

V. 11 Paul, of all people, knows what it’s like to experience temporary blindness after a run-in with Jesus!

### Acts 13:13-43

John Mark’s departure is stated here without explanation, but see also Acts 15:37-39.

“Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it” (v. 15). A good reminder for the basis of preaching.

Paul and Barnabas are in the synagogue on the Sabbath—that’s where the people are! Where would you go today if you wanted to find people?

Join down the five OT Scriptures that Paul references in his sermon. It’s possible some of these had just been read as part of the synagogue worship service (see v.15).

V. 42. Not a common response for most preachers! Yet it is still a mixed reaction.

### Acts 13:44-52

V. 47 quotes Is. 49:6 which is known as the Great Commission of the Old Testament.

Acts 14:1-7

“Istonium”. The stoning happens in v. 19.

Acts 14:8-18

Note how the healing of a man who was crippled from birth is quite similar to the man healed at the Jerusalem temple gate in Acts 3.

The mythology of Ovid, a Latin poet is helpful background for understanding the crowd’s reaction. Jupiter (Zeus to the Greeks) and his son Mercury (Hermes) visited the hill country of Phrygia disguised as mortal men. They sought the people’s hospitality, but were rejected and sent away. But one elderly couple (Philemon and Baucis) took care of them even though they were poor. Later the gods rewarded them, but flooded the homes of those who did not take them in. So, it is reasonable to presume the Lystran people would be certain to not suffer the same fate should the gods visit them once again.

“Two inscriptions and a stone altar have been discovered near Lystra which indicate that Zeus and Hermes were worshipped together as local patron deities” (231).

“The context within which Paul preached to the Jews in Antioch was Old Testament Scripture, its history, prophecies and law. But with the pagans in Lystra he focused not on a Scripture they did not know, but on the natural world around them, which they did know and could see” (232).

“We need to learn from Paul’s flexibility. We have not liberty to edit the heart of the good news of Jesus Christ. Nor is there ever any need to do so. But we have to begin where people are, to find a point of contact with them” (232).

Acts 14:19-28

What things did Paul do in order to establish a church before departing from it?

What would have happened if Paul never left each church he was trying to establish?

Do you feel our congregation is taking risks? Should we take more? Or a different kind?

Imagine the homecoming Paul and Barnabas received at Antioch. Was it all worth it? YES!