

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 25: A Forwarding Address

Acts 13:1

- We have reached a milestone here and the final leg in a race that was started in **Acts 1:8**== the essential outline for this book.
- Acts moves rather rapidly through the Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and spends the rest of its time occupied on the final frontier; a frontier and a mission that we are still involved in today— the uttermost parts of the earth.

Acts 13:1a –stop with the word “Antioch” because with that word the Gospel has truly reached the final frontier.

- The church at Antioch represents a beachhead for the Gospel on what is truly enemy territory.
 - Antioch is a unique place for God’s work.
 - a) It is place of absolute darkness.
 - b) The thought of there being only one God is laughable to them.
 - c) The city is named after Antiochus Epiphanes a king who believed he was the supreme God
 - So, it (i.e.. The church in Antioch) answers some large questions:
 - Can the church survive outside of Bible land?
 - Can a people who have no clue be clued in?
 - Can a people who are totally messed up be fixed?
 - What is the depth of the power of the Gospel?

Acts 13:1-3

- This is the beginning of what is called the missionary movement: the intentional sending out of people to spread the Gospel.
 - From now on outreach is going to be intentional.
- 1. There are some important characteristics to note about this church from which the missionary movement was started.**
 1. Not a “Nice” church
 - One of the worst things that can be said about any particular church is that it is “nice”
 - They were effectively changing their world: this caused conflict with local peoples and local authorities as well as conflict in the homes and families. **Mt. 10:34-36**
 - When you are turning your world upside down, people don’t call you nice!!
 - 2. Diversity**
 - Diversity in leadership—notice: not just one person who had the say or who was at the helm of leadership.
 - Proverbs says that in many counselors there is wisdom. (the opposite is also true!!)
 - ✓ The healthiest church is the one in which there is the most diversity ---- Why? == Because our world is diverse.
 - 3. A third thing we need to note about this church is the Spirit’s control over it.**
 - Down in verse 9 it says Paul was filled the Spirit.
 - Back in chapter 11 it characterizes Barnabas as a man full of the Holy Spirit.
 - In verse 2 we see the Spirit has the freedom to speak to them.
 - In verse 4 we see that they are sent out by the Holy Spirit.
 - This church knew the meaning of “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses.”
 - 4. A 4th thing to take note of about this church is that it was located at a new address.**
 - This was a whole new venture --- the work of God outside the land of God.
 - Sometimes God has to get outside of the box to start something new.
 - What a motley crew of leaders –
 - The Gospel has got to be told in fresh and new ways by new people because every generation and group has its own unique questions.
 - The Gospel has got to be constantly forwarded to a new address to reach a new people.
 - This is what essentially took place in Antioch: a new address for a new mission
 - You represent a new address.