**Jan. 7 Lesson 15 Acts 13:44-14:28 First Missionary Journey Part 2**

In our last lesson we read that while Barnabas and Saul were praying in Antioch with Symeon, Lucius and Manaen, the Holy Spirit revealed that he had special “work” for Saul and Barnabas to do. Saul and Barnabas set off on their first missionary journey beginning in Cyprus. There they met a magician named Bar-Jesus who tried to keep the Word of God from influencing the proconsul. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Saul curses the magician and the magician is struck blind for a time. The Proconsul comes to believe because of this. Paul’s journey continues from Cyprus to Paphos, Perga and Antioch. In Antioch Saul gives a speech. He used scripture to make a connection between prophecy and Jesus. He reveals that Jesus Christ comes from the line of King David. Saul/Paul uses Isaiah 49 to explain the call to preach to the Gentiles while also revealing God’s desire to justify every believer. Many believed and Paul and Barnabas were asked to return the following Sabbath. Great numbers showed up to hear them speak. Jealousy caused the Jewish leadership to react with violence against Paul and Barnabas. They left after shaking the dust from their sandals.

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? Was there a particular verse or message in this week’s lesson from Acts 13 and 14 that you found inspiring?**
2. **Check your foot notes for Acts 13:9. Why is Luke now using the name Paul rather than Saul?**
3. **What does it mean to be “justified” in verse 38? See Acts 13:38-39. Check footnotes for this verse for help.**

**Acts 13:38-3938**You must know, my brothers, that through him forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you, [and] in regard to everything from which you could not be justified under the law of Moses, **39**in him every believer is justified. **40**Be careful, then, that what was said in the prophets not come about:

**41**‘Look on, you scoffers, be amazed and disappear. For I am doing a work in your days,
    a work that you will never believe even if someone tells you.’”

1. **Read Catechism Reference # 578 below. Does this help to explain verses 38-41 above? How so?**

**CCC 578** Jesus, Israel's Messiah and therefore the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, was to fulfill the Law by keeping it in its all-embracing detail - according to his own words, down to "the least of these commandments". He is in fact the only one who could keep it perfectly. On their own admission the Jews were never able to observe the Law in its entirety without violating the least of its precepts. This is why every year on the Day of Atonement the children of Israel ask God's forgiveness for their transgressions of the Law. The Law indeed makes up one inseparable whole, and St. James recalls, "Whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it."

1. **What do you think Paul meant when he says that the Jews “condemn themselves as unworthy of eternal life”? See Acts 13:44-47 and footnotes.**

**Acts 13:44-47 44**On the following sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. **45**When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said. **46**Both Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first, but since you reject it and condemn yourselves as unworthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. **47**For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have made you a light to the Gentiles, that you may be an instrument of salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

1. **What tactics did the Jewish leaders use to get Paul and Barnabas expelled from Antioch? See Acts 13:48-52.**

**Acts 13:48-52 48**The Gentiles were delighted when they heard this and glorified the word of the Lord. All who were destined for eternal life came to believe, **49**and the word of the Lord continued to spread through the whole region. **50**The Jews, however, incited the women of prominence who were worshipers and the leading men of the city, stirred up a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their territory. **51**So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. **52**The disciples were filled with joy and the holy Spirit.

1. **Why do some of the Jews and Gentiles believe at first, and then later attack the Paul and Barnabas? See Acts 14: 1-7.**

 **Acts 14: 1-71**In Iconium they entered the Jewish synagogue together and spoke in such a way that a **great number of both Jews and Greeks came to believe**, **2although the disbelieving Jews stirred up and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against the brothers**. **3**So they stayed for a considerable period, speaking out boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the word about his grace by granting signs and wonders to occur through their hands. **4**The people of the city were divided: some were with the Jews; others, with the apostles. **5**When there was an attempt by both the Gentiles and the Jews, together with their leaders, to attack and stone them, **6**they realized it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding countryside, **7**where they continued to proclaim the good news.

1. **What did the Lord do to help the believers? See Acts 14: 1-7 above, and CCC # 1507 below.**

**CCC 1507** The risen Lord renews this mission ("In my name, they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.") and confirms it through the signs that the Church performs by invoking his name. These signs demonstrate in a special way that Jesus is truly "God who saves."

1. **What happened in Lystra? Why do you think the people reacted this way?**

**See Acts 14:8-13 and footnotes.**

**Acts 14:8-13 8**At Lystra there was a crippled man, lame from birth, who had never walked. **9**He listened to Paul speaking, who looked intently at him, saw that he had the faith to be healed, **10**and called out in a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet.” He jumped up and began to walk about. **11**When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they cried out in Lycaonian, “The gods have come down to us in human form.” **12**They called Barnabas “Zeus”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+14&version=NABRE#fen-NABRE-31747b)] and Paul “Hermes,” because he was the chief speaker. **13**And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, for he together with the people intended to offer sacrifice.

1. **Why did Barnabas and Paul tear their garments? Why were they upset? See Acts 14:14-19 and footnotes. (Think back to King Herod’s fate in Acts 12, and Exodus 20:1-6.**

**Acts 14:14-19** We are of the same nature as you, human beings. We proclaim to you good news that you should turn from these idols to the living God, ‘who made heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them.’ **16**In past generations he allowed all Gentiles to go their own ways; **17**yet, in bestowing his goodness, he did not leave himself without witness, for he gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, and filled you with nourishment and gladness for your hearts.” **18**Even with these words, they scarcely restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.

**19**However, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won over the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. **20**But when the disciples gathered around him, he got up and entered the city. On the following day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

 **Exodus 20:1-6**Then God spoke all these words, saying, **2**“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**3**“You shall have no other gods before Me. **4**“You shall not make for yourself [[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus%2020:1-17&version=NASB#fen-NASB-2056c)]an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. **5**You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, **6**but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

1. **How did Paul complete this missionary trip? List the things he did to establish Christian communities or “Churches” that would last. See Acts 14:21-28.**

**Acts 14:21-28** After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and made a considerable number of disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch. **22**They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying, “It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” **23**They appointed presbyters for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had put their faith. **24**Then they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. **25**After proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia. **26**From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now accomplished. **27**And when they arrived, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. **28**Then they spent no little time with the disciples.

