



Faith to Discern

Acts 13:1-12

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1. Accept the Assignment
2. Recognize Road block
3. Counter Conclusively

Accept the Assignment

Acts 13:1-5

a) Direction of Leadership (13:1-3)

In the church that was at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius the Cyrenian, Manaen, a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Accept the Assignment

Acts 13:1-5

a) Direction of Leadership (Acts 13:1-3)

...As they were ministering to[a] the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them to.” Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.

Accept the Assignment

Acts 13:1-5

a) Direction of Leadership (13:1-3)

How can the church do better in the area of prayerful decision making?

- At the leadership level
- At the level of the midsize group (ministry groups)
- At the small group level
- At the level of the individual

Accept the Assignment

Acts 13:1-5

- a) Direction of Leadership (Acts 13:1-b)
- b) Follow the plan (Acts 13:4-5)

Accept the Assignment

Acts 13:1-5

b) Follow the plan (Acts 13:4-5)

Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they came down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 Arriving in Salamis, they proclaimed God's message in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John as their assistant.



Iconium



Lystra



Derbe



Perga



Syria

Antioch
Seleucia



Salamis



Paphos



Accept the Assignment

Acts 13:1-5

b) Follow the plan (Acts 13:4-5)

What principles of and places for successful evangelism can we draw for today from the actions of Barnabas and Saul?

Recognize Road Block

Acts 13:6-8

a) Spiritual Counterfeit

When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came across a sorcerer, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. (Acts 13:6)

Recognize Road Block

Acts 13:6-8

a) Spiritual Counterfeit

(Acts 13:6)

b) Powerful Distractor (Acts 13:7-8)

Recognize Road Block

Acts 13:6-8

b) Powerful Distractor (13:7-8)

...He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man summoned Barnabas and Saul and desired to hear God's message. But Elymas the sorcerer (this is the meaning of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

Counter Conclusively

Acts 13:9-12

a) Define differences (13:9-10)

Then Saul—also called Paul—filled with the Holy Spirit, stared straight at the sorcerer 10 and said, “You son of the Devil, full of all deceit and all fraud, enemy of all righteousness! Won’t you ever stop perverting the straight paths of the Lord?”

Counter Conclusively

Acts 13:9-12

a) Define differences (13:9-10)

What circumstances today call for strong confrontation rather than a gentler approach?

- Regarding tensions between church and culture
- Regarding tensions within the church

Counter Conclusively

Acts 13:9-12

- a) Define differences (13:9-10)
- b) **Provide evidence (13:11-12)**

Counter Conclusively

Acts 13:9-12

b) Provide evidence (13:11-12)

Now, look! The Lord's hand is against you. You are going to be blind, and will not see the sun for a time." Suddenly a mist and darkness fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

Counter Conclusively

Acts 13:9-12

b) Provide evidence (13:11-12)

False Sprituality?

Counter Conclusively

Acts 13:9-12

b) Provide evidence (13:11-12)

*Then the proconsul, seeing what happened, believed and was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.
(v12)*

How to present the gospel...

- Not-yet-believing acquaintances
- Not-yet-believing family members
- Not-yet-believing strangers

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Prayer

Dear Jesus Christ, may we trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance rather than our own planning! Teach us to follow You as we live in uncertainty, for You are the only certainty we need. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.