



Devotion Info

Embrace God's Grace

DAY 1 Read Acts 13:1-12

[1] Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called "the black man"), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. [2] One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them." [3] So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

[4] So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus. [5] There, in the town of Salamis, they went to the Jewish synagogues and preached the word of God. John Mark went with them as their assistant.

[6] Afterward they traveled from town to town across the entire island until finally they reached Paphos, where they met a Jewish sorcerer, a false prophet named Bar-Jesus. [7] He had attached himself to the governor, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent man. The governor invited Barnabas and Saul to visit him, for he wanted to hear the word of God. [8] But Elymas, the sorcerer (as his name means in Greek), interfered and urged the governor to pay no attention to what Barnabas and Saul said. He was trying to keep the governor from believing.

[9] Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. [10] Then he said, "You son of the devil, full of every sort of deceit and fraud, and enemy of all that is good! Will you never stop perverting the true ways of the Lord?"

[11] Watch now, for the Lord has laid his hand of punishment upon you, and you will be struck blind. You will not see the sunlight for some time." Instantly mist and darkness came over the man's eyes, and he began groping around begging for someone to take his hand and lead him.

[12] When the governor saw what had happened, he became a believer, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

Acts 13:1-12 NLT

- The Bible tells us that the prophets prayed and fasted and then the Holy Spirit "said". How do you think they heard the Holy Spirit?
- Why was the laying on of hands important?

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DAY 2 Read Acts 13:1-15

[13] Paul and his companions then left Paphos by ship for Pamphylia, landing at the port town of Perga. There John Mark left them and returned to Jerusalem. [14] But Paul and Barnabas traveled inland to Antioch of Pisidia. On the Sabbath they went to the synagogue for the services. [15] After the usual readings from the books of Moses and the prophets, those in charge of the service sent them this message: "Brothers, if you have any word of encouragement for the people, come and give it."

Acts 13:13-15 NLT

- When they went to a new city, where did they go first?
- Why do you think they did this?
- Why was it important to them?

DAY 3 Read Acts 13:38-39 and Romans 3:20

[38] "Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. [39] Everyone who believes in him is made right in God's sight—something the law of Moses could never do.

Acts 13:38-39 NLT

[20] For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Romans 3:20 NLT

- What is grace?
- What is the difference between law and grace?
- Why do you think that Pastor Mike called the law "a spiritual MRI machine"?

DAY 4 Read Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 8:1-2 and Galatians 5:1

[8] God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. [9] Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 NLT

[1] So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. [2] And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Romans 8:1-2 NLT

[1] So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

Galatians 5:1 NLT

- After reading these passages, fill in the blanks: God's grace brings _____;
_____ ; and _____.

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Romans 8:1-2 NLT

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Galatians 5:1 NLT

- How can "Joy in Christ" make us bolder in sharing the gospel with others.
- What keeps us from sharing this message of grace more freely?

If you would like a daily reminder of these devotionals for each week's sermon, text "DEVO" to 512-877-5131 and you'll receive a text message after 8am Monday-Friday with a link to that day's devotional.