

Readings

Scripture

^{12:25} And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

^{13:1} Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. ⁶ When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet named Bar-Jesus. ⁷ He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. ⁹ But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him ¹⁰ and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord?" ¹¹ And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. ¹² Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

- Acts 12:25-13:12 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Grace Abounding
Acts 12:25-13:12

The Acts of the Apostles
Stephen Baldwin

The Church needs to discover what the Spirit of Christ produces as his grace abounds.

As His grace abounds, Christ produces true missional community.

(Acts 12:25-13:4)

Missional community is...

- true to its context
 - true to Christ's character
 - true to Christ's mission
 - true to Christ's practices
-
-
-
-

As his grace abounds, Christ produces bold missionary teams. (Acts 13:5-12)

Missionary teams...

- understand that Christ sends them
 - understand that Christ empowers them
-
-
-
-

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- To what modern communities would you compare Antioch?
- What do you observe about the leadership of the church in Antioch?
- What were their primary practices, and how closely do modern church practices compare with the Antioch church?
- Does Valley Springs have some of their characteristics?
- Who sent Paul and Barnabas on their mission? Who comprised the team?
- What marks of Christ's presence and enabling power can you name in the story of Paul's encounter with Elymas and the proconsul?
- How does the text describe Elymas? Are there "spiritual leaders" today that this description fits?