

# **SENT Sermon Study Guide**

## **The First Missionary Journey – Acts 13-14**



**Scripture Reading:** Acts 13-14

### **Sermon Notes:**

In the Acts 13-14 account of the missionary journey undertaken by Paul and Silas there are several

1. Certainty – Luke, the author of this two part text (Gospel of Luke/Acts of the Apostles) has gone to great lengths to search out the truth of Jesus’ story as told in the gospel and the continuing story of the church as told in Acts. He has spoken to those who were present and witnessed the miracles, heard the teachings, and saw the results of the Good News being preached. In Luke 1:1-2, the writer states that one of the purposes is so that the reader (Theophilus) can have certainty that this is true.

- Disciples went to all different parts of the known world to preach
- All of them with the exception of John were martyred for their faith

2. Discernment – In this text, the gathered leaders of the church are in prayer and fasting and receive a message from the Spirit that Paul and Barnabas are to be sent out to proclaim the gospel to the Gentiles. Just as Paul and Barnabas needed others in the church to discern with them, we too need the church around us to help us hear and discern the voice of the Spirit in our lives.

3. Opposition – As encountered in this text, and consistent with the teaching of scripture, when we proclaim the Good News and live in the transformed life, we will encounter all kinds of opposition. Paul, even though he has been threatened, beaten, stoned and left for dead, stands strong. In fact, he also returns to those very places where he experienced opposition and stays there “because” of the opposition that believers in those places have experienced.

In our own context, we are free to speak the name of Jesus and preach the gospel. While we may receive some attitudinal opposition, our greatest opposition comes from our own doubt and lack of faith.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Scripture tells us that the Word of God is reliable and trustworthy for our spiritual walk. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. What are some of the reasons that we sometimes may feel doubt about the scriptures? What are some of the objections that you have encountered to scripture being true? How can we be sure of what the scriptures tell us even though it was written so long ago?
2. One of ways that we have seen the gospel message confirmed in the book of Acts is through the miracles and wonders that accompany the message. What are some of the ways that you have seen the Spirit of God at work in your own life or in the lives of those around you? How does that help or encourage you in your own spiritual walk? Are you also motivated to tell others about what God has done?
3. Scripture tells us again and again that we need others around us to help us hear and discern the voice of God. What are some of the reasons that we are reluctant to practice this in our daily lives?
4. Take some time to talk with the group about a couple of the concerns and questions that you are dealing with in your life. Take some time as a group to listen well and then take those concerns to prayer. Then share with each other what you think God might want to speak into those situations.
5. Sometimes we let our own doubts or fears get in the way of what we are being called to accomplish. What are some of the personal doubts that you struggle with when you think about telling other people about Jesus?
6. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 together out loud as a group. Take some time to offer up your prayers and fears up to God and ask for His Spirit to help you stand strong in the face of opposition.

### **Taking Action:**

In the coming week, ask God to help you overcome one of your doubts. Take the opportunity to tell one person this week that God loves them!