

**Monday, 14 August 2017 Acts 11:19-21**

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

And so it began: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 28:19). The explosive growth of the faith through witnessing in "Jerusalem and in all Judah and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8) It is continuing throughout the Global South and the 10-40 Window.

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**Tuesday, 15 August 2017 Acts 13:7-12**

He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

**But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 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? 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. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.**

There is a lesson here, a lesson of boldness but also a lesson of obedience. Paul was not off playing the part of a loose cannon, but guided by the Holy Spirit rebuked Elymas without pulling his punches. He was not politically correct. I need to be likewise, more concerned for the state of a Sergius Paulus' soul than the petty pride of an Elymas. Not to be deliberately offensive but listening and obeying the leading of the Spirit.

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**Wednesday, 16 August 2017 Acts 13:38-39**

*Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.*

My sins are forgiven through my Lord Jesus Christ, not through Moses. They are forgiven through His work and my belief. My belief is made visible to those around me by my trust in His promises, by my commitment to Him and by my obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In a word, by the evidence of my faith.

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**Thursday, 17 August 2017 Acts 13:40-41**

*Beware, therefore, lest what is said in the Prophets should come about: "Look, you scoffers, be astounded and perish; for I am doing a work in your days, a work that you will not believe, even if one tells it to you."*

Another lesson from Paul's sermon to the Jews of Pisidian Antioch is to warn our hearers that they are the object of prophecy. (Habakkuk 1:5) We are surrounded by the Chaldeans of today and must learn to deal with the scoffers.

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**Friday, 18 August 2017 Acts 13:44-48**

*The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.*

Next lesson—don't waste time with scoffers, take the Gospel to those who want to hear. Go to those who are hungry, those who will accept (believe) and rejoice glorifying the Word of the Lord. How often do we get into a situation with a scoffer that our ego won't let us quit? Satan keeps driving me on and it becomes a battle of wills rather than

the Word of the Lord being magnified.  
Take my lumps, pick up the pieces of my battered pride and look to the Holy Spirit for the location of the next set of the thirsty.

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**Saturday, 19 August 2017 Acts 14:1**

*Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.*

Do you wonder what that 'way' was that Paul and Barnabus used to address the Jews and Greeks in Iconium? I do! Probably no PowerPoints or cute anecdotes or clever jokes. "They proclaimed the Word of God," v 5, "the teaching of the Lord," v12, "Men of Israel and you who fear God, listen.", v 17, "And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers," v32, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you." v46. See the pattern, John. Start with the Gospel, preach the Gospel and wrap your message up by quoting the Scriptures.

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**Lord's Day, 20 August 2017 Psalm 119:117**

*Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually!*

It is only through Your support and the guidance of the Holy Spirit that I can lead a consistent life as one of Your disciples. I need to be entirely focused on Your statutes to keep the vision of the Kingdom before me.

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*August 14-20, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**

*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

LORD, we, the [congregation], raise each other up in prayer that we may be worthy of Your calling, and that by Your power You will fulfill every good purpose of ours and every act prompted by our faith. We pray this so the Your Name, our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in us and us in You, according to the grace of our God and You. *Amen*

**Creational Theology hint for the week—Prayer of Offering** Thanks be to You. Jesus Christ./ For the many gifts You have given me./ Each day and night, each sea and land,/ Each weather fair, each calm, each wild./ I am giving You worship with my whole life./ I am giving You my "Yes" with my whole power./ I am giving You praise with my whole mouth./ I am giving You honor with all I say./ I am giving You reverence with my whole understanding./ I am giving You offering with my whole thought./ I am giving You praise with my whole fervor./ I am giving You humility in the blood of the Lamb./ I am giving You love with my whole devotion./ I am on my knees with my whole desire./ I am giving You love with my whole heart./ I am giving You affection with all my senses./ I am giving You my existence with my whole mind./ I am giving You my soul, O God of all gods.<sup>1</sup>

"Voices Together" is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to: Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc. PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452

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