

Apostolic Mindset (Part 2)

Acts 13:13-15

¹³From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

¹⁴From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. ¹⁵After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak.”

- **Be ready for your moment. He was sitting. He did not force himself onto them.**

Acts 13:16-22

¹⁶Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me! ¹⁷The God of the people of Israel chose our ancestors; he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt; with mighty power he led them out of that country; ¹⁸for about forty years he endured their conduct^[b] in the wilderness; ¹⁹and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their inheritance. ²⁰All this took about 450 years. “After this, God gave them judges until the time of Samuel the prophet. ²¹Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. ²²After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: ‘I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.’

- **God can remove kings**
- **Obedience reveals the heart**

Acts 13:23-25

²³“From this man’s descendants God has brought to Israel the Saviour Jesus, as he promised. ²⁴Before the coming of Jesus, John preached repentance and baptism to all the people of Israel. ²⁵As John was completing his work, he said: ‘Who do you suppose I am? I am not the one you are looking for. But there is one coming after me whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.’

- **How have you positioned yourself? How could John have positioned himself? I believe that God new John’s heart when he was chosen. He had to be humble and unusual in this. Jesus exalted John when he said in Luke 7:28 that there is no one no one of women greater than John the Baptist.**

Acts 13:26-31

²⁶“Fellow children of Abraham and you God-fearing Gentiles, it is to us that this message of salvation has been sent. ²⁷The people of Jerusalem and their rulers did not recognize Jesus, yet in condemning him they fulfilled the words of the prophets that are read every Sabbath. ²⁸Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. ²⁹When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. ³⁰But God raised him from the dead, ³¹and for many days he was seen by those who had travelled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

Acts 13:32-37

³²“We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors ³³he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: “‘You are my son; today I have become your father.’^[c] ³⁴God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay. As God has said, “‘I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.’^[d] ³⁵So it is also stated elsewhere: “‘You will not let your holy one see decay.’^[e] ³⁶“Now when David had served God’s purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed. ³⁷But the one whom God raised from the dead did not see decay.

- **David served God’s purpose in his generation – What’s God’s purpose in your generation? What was relevant for yesterday is not necessarily relevant for today. This something fresh for today. What’s His message today for your generation?**

Acts 13:38-40

³⁸“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.

³⁹Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses. ⁴⁰Take care that what the prophets have said does not happen to you:

- **Set free from every sin will include addictions**

Acts 13:41-43

⁴¹“Look, you scoffers, wonder and perish, for I am going to do something in your days that you would never believe, even if someone told you.”^[f] ⁴²As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. ⁴³When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

- **Being invited to speak further is a sign of doors within doors. Don't be discouraged by the first turnout. You will be invited again. Many want to speak to the whole city but are not available for the first meeting. Many want to be on the big channels but are not willing to start with the small.**

Acts 13:44

On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.

- **Levels of glory**

Acts 13:45

When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

- **Envy – twisting, misquoting, mocking (Sometimes it come sin the Saul spirit and other times its from peers). They want to believe negative things about you and somehow people who lie end up going to them and tell them what they might want to believe. E.g. Us in 2008.**
- **They were filled with jealousy. People are filled with different things. Either the Holy Spirit or jealousy, fear, anxiety etc.**

Acts 13:46-48

⁴⁶Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: “We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“I have made you^[g] a light for the Gentiles, that you^[h] may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”^[i] ⁴⁸When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honoured the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

- **Go where the life is. Don't waste your time on people that are not interested, whether it's the Gospel or just mentoring. There are people out there that want to hear. I would rather pour myself into a township that wants to hear than a suburb with snooty people. (That's why I love speaking in DR Congo, Kenya etc).**

Acts 13:49-52

⁴⁹The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. ⁵⁰But the Jewish leaders incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium. ⁵²And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

- **Often resistance will come through leaders (de facto or de jure) or influential people (money) in the region. Sometimes this is because of mammon.**
- **Has your mind become prejudiced against people who God has endorsed?**

- **Socrates asked a person who was about to speak of his friend. Is it true? Is it good? Is it useful?**

Acts 14:1-7

¹At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue. There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed. ²But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the other Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. ⁴The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. ⁵There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. ⁶But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, ⁷where they continued to preach the gospel.

- **Ask God to open your eyes to the enemy's strategy.**
- **Ask God what you should then do. Should you flee or remain? This is important when it comes to immigration too.**
- **They continued with their assignment in a different place. They kept preaching. Don't flee and stop. If you flee then keep doing what he has sent you to do. Many people are scattered and move because of employment etc, but unfortunately their ministry dies down. I will keep preaching the gospel. Don't become too sophisticated that you stop preaching the gospel as if the wealthy or intelligent don't need it. E.g. Trace's story about the demonized person she saw in Switzerland how should not have been allowed onto a bus.**

1 Cor 9:16

For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!