

## Apostolic Mindset

### Acts 12:21 – 14:7

#### Acts 12:21-23

<sup>21</sup>On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. <sup>22</sup>They shouted, “This is the voice of a god, not of a man.” <sup>23</sup>Immediately, **because Herod did not give praise to God**, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

- We are ultimately doing all this for the Glory of God. We were created for His glory.
- Herod was struck down, not the people.
- How do you respond to praise for man?
- To what extent do you long for the praise of man?
- They depended on the king’s country for food supply. You will worship man when you depend on man. The apostolic mindset causes you to see God as your source. This becomes your differentiator. This is your key to freedom.

#### Acts 12:24 - 13:1

<sup>24</sup>But the word of God continued to spread and flourish. <sup>25</sup>When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from[a] Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. <sup>1</sup>Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers:

- The apostolic mindset recognises diversity of gift mix.

#### Acts 13:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

- The apostolic mindset causes you to embrace diversity (ethnic and social class).
- Many want to be sent but not from a place of intimacy.
- The context of being sent was their seeking after God’s face. They were not worshipping because they wanted to be sent. They were doing the opposite of what Herod’s worshippers had been doing. God is seeking those who worship Him in Spirit and Truth.
- The word *Leitourgeo* is used for worship. It means, performing religious or charitable acts so it is not limited to singing. It speaks of the function of Aaronic priesthood. In other words they were serving in their local church. All of Paul’s success must be seen in this context; loving the local church whilst serving the nations. Intimacy with Jesus whilst walking in power. The horizontal ministry flowing out of the vertical ministry to God.
- Some people are desperate to be sent out but are not functioning and worshipping where they are.
- They were to be set apart. Were they not already? You can function in a local church but not yet be set apart. Many are still walking in their general calling but not yet their specific. Saul and Barnabas had just returned from a mission to Jerusalem.
- The supernatural grace and resources will come with the sending. God allocates resources specifically for what He has sent you to do. The resources include courage, money, people, time etc.

### Acts 13:4-5

<sup>4</sup>The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

<sup>5</sup>When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

- The Holy Spirit is the one who sends. It's one of His functions. What has he released you into? The same Holy Spirit that sends you also guides you and empowers you. If you want to experience the power of the Spirit in your life then ensure that you begin with Him. He likes being involved from the start. Many people are frustrated when they join projects midway.
- The Holy Spirit is the *Paracletos* who helps but it's interesting that He can use people to do so too. John Mark was their helper. Are you willing to be someone's helper. If so, make sure that you are a vessel of The Helper. A lot of times those who helped became great themselves e.g. Elisha (2 Kings 3:11 – Is there no prophet of the Lord here.... Elisha, who used to pour water on Elijah's hands), Joshua (Numbers 11:28 – Joshua.... the attendant of Moses since youth, David (sent to battle in the context of serving, later he served by playing his harp), John Mark (ended up writing the Gospel of Mark, known as an evangelist, and also founded the church in Alexandria, Egypt) etc.

### Acts 13:6-11

<sup>6</sup>They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, <sup>7</sup>who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup>But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. <sup>9</sup>Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, <sup>10</sup>"You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup>Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun."

- It's no surprise that they met a sorcerer. The true prophetic will often encounter the counterfeit. Apostolic assignments will at some point face resistance.
- It's interesting that the sorcerer was in the marketplace/government and not in a hut or church context. We must be aware of the battle in the marketplace.
- It's interesting that John was an attendant of Paul and Barnabas whilst Bar-Jesus was an attendant of the Pro-Consul. Who will be your attendant. You can have someone who is full of the Spirit or you can have someone that is full of demons. Today many leaders have demonic counsel. Many headmasters and government leaders have attendants that are witches. The proconsul was an intelligent man yet he was being supported by a sorcerer. Today the media is trying to romanticise this by saying there is white magic and black magic or good witches. This is not true because the bible says in 2 Cor 11:14, *It's no surprise for Satan himself will masquerade as an angel of light.*
- When you face demonic resistance it's not always because of something in your family line or something personal. Often the enemy is afraid of your assignment. Saul and Paul had been promoted in the spirit and were now facing a higher level of satanic resistance. The enemy will want you to shrink back in fear. The enemy will want to silence you.
- This is the link between power and teaching.

### Acts 13:11-12

<sup>11</sup>Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

<sup>12</sup>When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.