

ACTS 13

1. Why didn't Paul stay at his home at Antioch?
-Because Paul's heart was to take the Gospel to those who had never heard.
2. Why did God do miracles through Paul and other apostles?
-To begin the work of building the Church of Jesus Christ.
-To help everyone understand that the apostles' teaching was not from man, but from God alone.
3. Is God able to do miracles today?
-Yes.
-God has not changed.
-God never changes.
4. What is a reason why we may not see many miracles today?
-Because the Word of God is complete, if people cannot believe in Christ through the Word of God, then no miracle will help them to believe.
5. Why would God perform miracles when the Word of God first enters a new area or a new tribe?
-Miracles help the people to understand that the Word of God is true, and that it is not from man, but from God alone.

6. Why did the demons have to obey when Paul told them to go out of the people?
-Because Paul was one with the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. Do Satan and his demons have to obey all Christians today?
-Yes, if we are controlled by the Holy Spirit and allow the Lord Jesus to speak through us, Satan and his demons must obey.
8. Is it a sin for Christians to depend on witchcraft and charms instead of trusting in the Lord Jesus?
-Yes.
9. Where did Paul go after he left Ephesus?
-First, Paul went to Macedonia, and then to Corinth.
10. Where did Paul go after his work was completed in Corinth?
-He traveled back through Macedonia to Philippi and then sailed to Troas.

-Toward the end of his third missionary journey, where did Paul go when he left Troas?

-Paul left Troas and traveled down the coast to Miletus which was the closest seaport to Ephesus.

Let's read Acts 20:17

17-From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church.

-Whom did Paul call from Ephesus to come to Miletus?

-The elders of the church at Ephesus.

-Who chose these elders for the church in Ephesus?

-God the Holy Spirit through Paul.

-How should elders be chosen?

-We must choose people whom God Himself has already chosen, and who are already serving in the church.

-As Paul had lived and taught in Ephesus for three years, he was able to watch the people as they served in the church.

-What is the work of an elder?

-To lead the people of the church to God.

-To teach the people of the church about God.

-To encourage the people of the church when they have difficulties.

-To protect the people of the church from false teachings.

-When the elders arrived, what did Paul say to them?

Let's read Acts 20:18-19

18-When they arrived, [Paul] said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia.

19-I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews."

-First, Paul told the elders that he had served God with great humility and with tears.

-What is Paul's example here?

-That a teacher of the Word of God must not be a king over the people, but rather serve the people with great humility.

-A person who is proud and who wants to control people should not be teaching the Word of God.

-What else did Paul say to the elders?

Let's read Acts 20:20-21

20-"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

21-I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus."

-Secondly, Paul reminded the elders of how he taught in Ephesus.

-Is it sometimes difficult or embarrassing to share the truths of God with people?

-Yes.

-We may be afraid that we will hurt people's feelings or that they will become angry.

-Was Paul afraid to tell people the truth?

-No.

-Teaching God's truths to others hurts them and hurts their pride, but in the end, God's truths will heal them.

-Here is an illustration:

-If you are sick and need an injection, the needle will hurt you.

-Yet, even though the needle will hurt, the medicine will make you better.

-We must teach people the Word of God for even if it hurts them, it will heal them.

-Did Paul teach the believers at Ephesus only when they gathered in meetings?

-No.

-Paul also taught the people in their homes.

-What else did Paul say to the elders?

Let's read Acts 20:22-25

22-"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there.

23-I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

24-However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

25-"Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again.

-Thirdly, Paul spoke to the elders about his future.

-What did the Holy Spirit tell Paul about his future?

-That he would be put into prison and suffer hardships.

-Did knowing this turn Paul away from what the Lord wanted him to do?

-No.

-If it was God's will, then Paul was willing to die for the Lord Jesus.

-Like Paul, we Christians should be willing to obey God even if it means death.

-God will be our strength even in the time of death.

-What else did Paul say to the elders?

Let's read Acts 20:26-27

26-"Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

27-For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God."

-Fourthly, Paul told the elders that he was innocent of the blood of all men, and could not be blamed.

-Why could Paul not be blamed if the people of Ephesus died and went to everlasting punishment?

-Because Paul had taught all of them the will of God to be saved from sin, death, and Satan.

-What else did Paul say to the elders?

Let's read Acts 20:28

28-"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."

-Fifthly, Paul told the elders to watch over themselves as

well as all of the Christians in the church.

-The first responsibility of those who teach about God is to obey the Word of God themselves.

-Will people listen to our teaching if we do not obey it?

-No.

-Paul also told the elders to be shepherds of the sheep of God, that is, Christians in the church.

-Just like good shepherds make sure that their sheep have enough food and water, elders should make sure that God's sheep have enough food and water.

-What is the food of God's sheep?

-The Word of God.

-An elder must be able to teach the Word of God to God's sheep.

-Paul also told the elders that they were overseers.

-The responsibility of an overseer is to guide the church in all of its activities.

-What else did Paul say to the elders?

Let's read Acts 20:29-31

29-“I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock.

30-Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

31-So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.”

-Paul told the elders to protect God’s sheep from anyone or anything that might hurt them.

-People who teach that which is not according to the Word of God are like savage wolves.

-These teachers teach the lies of Satan, and the people cannot live the way God wants them to live.

-Paul told the elders not to forget that he had watched over every believer, warning them about anyone or anything that would hurt them.

-Because Paul was leaving, he committed the elders to God.

Let’s read Acts 20:32

32-“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

-Even though Paul was leaving them, what did he say would build them up and give them an inheritance?

-The “word of grace” which is the Word of God

-Teachers come into new areas and teach, and after their teaching is done, they leave.

-Yet, even if teachers leave, if they can leave the written Word of God with the people, this is the best.

-What part of the Word of God did the church at Ephesus have?

-They had the complete Old Testament in writing.

-Although the New Testament was not yet written, Paul had taught the Christians in Ephesus many of the truths which are in the New Testament.

-What else did Paul say to the elders?

Let’s read Acts 20:33-35

33-“I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing.

34-You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.

35-In everything I did, I showed you that by this

kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

-Did Paul covet any of the people’s money or clothing?
-No.

-A teacher of the Word of God should not compare himself with other people who have more money or more clothes than he does.

-Some teachers think that they should have much money and many clothes if they teach the Word of God.

-John the Baptist’s clothes were made of camel’s hair.

-He had a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey (Matthew 3:4).

-Jesus did not even have a home nor a bed.

-Jesus said, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head” (Mt 8:20).

-Was Paul a lazy man?
-No.

-A teacher of the Word of God should not expect others to serve him.

-Some teachers think that others should work for them because they are teaching the Word of God.

-Paul not only taught God’s Word, but he also worked to provide for his own needs as well as for the needs of others.

-Does God want His children to be lazy or to covet what other’s have?
-No.

-All Christians should work to meet the needs of their own families as well as others who are sick and need help.

-After Paul spoke to the elders, he prayed with them.

Let’s read Acts 20:36-38

36-When [Paul] had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed.

37-They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him.

38-What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

-Did Paul plan to return again to Ephesus?
-No.

-Paul is at the end of his third missionary journey.