

[MUSIC] Hey, good morning. Welcome to our daily time together in God's Word.

We're continuing in the Book of Acts. We've had a great time. That's for yesterday we saw the importance of local church.

As Barnabas and Saul were sent all, today we're going to see their ministry begin to unfold. So today we're going to pick up chapter 13, reading chapter 13 verses 4 through 12. This is Acts chapter 13, verses 4 through 12.

We've seen it many times, signs and wonders. So, you remember we talked a lot about in Acts about signs and wonders that you see? Great things happen, and the purpose of these great things is not the thing in and of

themselves, but the purpose of the great things is so that people will come to believe in the power of Jesus. The signs and wonders are there to allow people to experience the power of God.

So that's what happened here. We see, now this isn't just a sign and wonder. This is a judgment against somebody who's trying to turn people from the faith, but it is a sign and wonders nonetheless for people to come to believe in the power of Jesus. So we see here Paul and Barnabas going out and notice what says first thing out. It says, "Been sent out by the Holy Spirit."

They went down to Salusia. So we see here that they are being led and guided by the Spirit. The Spirit is leading them to where they are to go.

And they go around proclaiming in the synagogues. And that's a common pattern. We've seen this throughout Acts.

We've seen it so often that they would come into a town and they would proclaim in the synagogues because the Jewish persons would be familiar with some of the things they're saying. So a Gentile audience would be completely different because they would not be familiar with the language of the Old Testament. So they start off, kind of, I'm going to say, on a safe ground for me or your ground, they start off in the synagogues and to the Jewish people who would understand what they were saying. So they do that and then they go across the whole island and that's where they meet this false prophet.

And Magician, you know, you're going to see in Acts several times the notion of Magicians or false prophets, people that have other spirits. And that's something for us to know.

You see here a contrast between the Holy Spirit who led Paul and Barnabas to this place versus a false spirit. This Magician who has a false spirit and he's trying to turn people against the Word of the Lord. And so always know that there are people who want to work against righteousness. One of my professors in seminary, Dr. Bryant, said you start always can tell a lot about a person by who their enemies are. You see in here, the person who's opposing Paul and Barnabas is someone who's a false prophet, someone who has arterial motives, someone who is trying to stop the work of the Lord.

And all these thought was that the devil is not messing with you. You're not doing anything.

So we see and notice this. I've seen this happen, y'all in my ministry so many times, my life so many times. In the previous three verses, we see something awesome happen.

We see something powerful and great. We call them mountaintop experiences where the spirit led them to do these things, and it's awesome.

It's awesome. And what do we see after that? Pretty soon, opposition, challenges, trials.

I've seen in my life my ministry so many times after something big happens after something great happens. And I've seen this struggle.

Like this, not always lived on the mountain, y'all. We have these mountaintop experiences. We have these revival moments.

We have these moments where we feel and experience the spirit like they felt in verses 3, 1, 2, 3. We have these moments that are amazing, a powerful worship service. I can't, I can't meet, I can't, a summer camp for a child, a revival for an adult, maybe a song in church, maybe a sermon. But we have these moments where we, where we feel the spirit of God, where we know that we're in the presence of Jehovah, we feel these things and we walk away, change our different or on fire. And then we're going to have pretty soon after that, I can promise you, pretty soon after that, we're going to have a valley.

We're going to have trouble. We're going to have trials. We're going to face opposition.

And it's going to be hard. The mountaintops revive us. We need mountaintops.

We do, we need mountaintops. Mountaintops are big, mountaintops are good, we need mountaintops. Mountaintops revive us, mountaintops, transfiguration, mountaintop for Jesus, baptism.

We see on the mountaintop Jesus in His glory. You see Moses in the Old Testament of Mountain, when the glory of God passed by, and he held the glory of God.

Mountaintops are sacred. Jesus taught the sermon on the Mount. Mountaintops are huge.

We need these moments, y'all. They revive us. They give us hope.

But our faith grows in the valley. Our faith grows when it's hard. Our faith grows in difficult.

Our faith grows when it's not easy. So yes, we need the mountaintop for revival. We need, we need Acts 1 through 3 for revival.

Yes, but y'all, we need Acts 4 through 12 for growth. Because when it's when we face opposition like Paul and Bartlett face today. When we face trials and troubles and worries and fears.

It's in our faith grows. That's in our faith grows. So if you're on a mountaintop, then celebrate it.

Man, if you're feeling the spirit of God moving your life in amazing ways and you're experiencing it, that's a great way to celebrate that. That is beautiful and powerful, and we need that.

Stay on the mountain as long as you can. Stay on the mountain as long as you can because we need those moments. But y'all, if you're on the mountain, understand you're not going to be there forever.

And if you're in the valley, if you're in the valley right now, if you're facing difficult times and difficult seasons. If it's hard, if it's hard, then keep walking, keeping faithful.

Trust in Jesus. You either walk through the valley of the shadow of death, they will fear no evil. Why?

But thank God for the valleys, too. And thank God for the valleys because as hard as they are, they will grow you. So today, no matter where you find yourself, may you know the Lord God is with you.

He's never going to leave you. He's never going to forsake you. So whether you're on the mountain or in the valley, you're there with God.

Thanks for being with us. Have a great weekend. We're going to pick up Monday with chapter 13, verse 13.

We're going to continue to see their teaching and preaching. So thanks for being with us. Have a wonderful weekend.

Hope to see you Monday. [MUSIC]