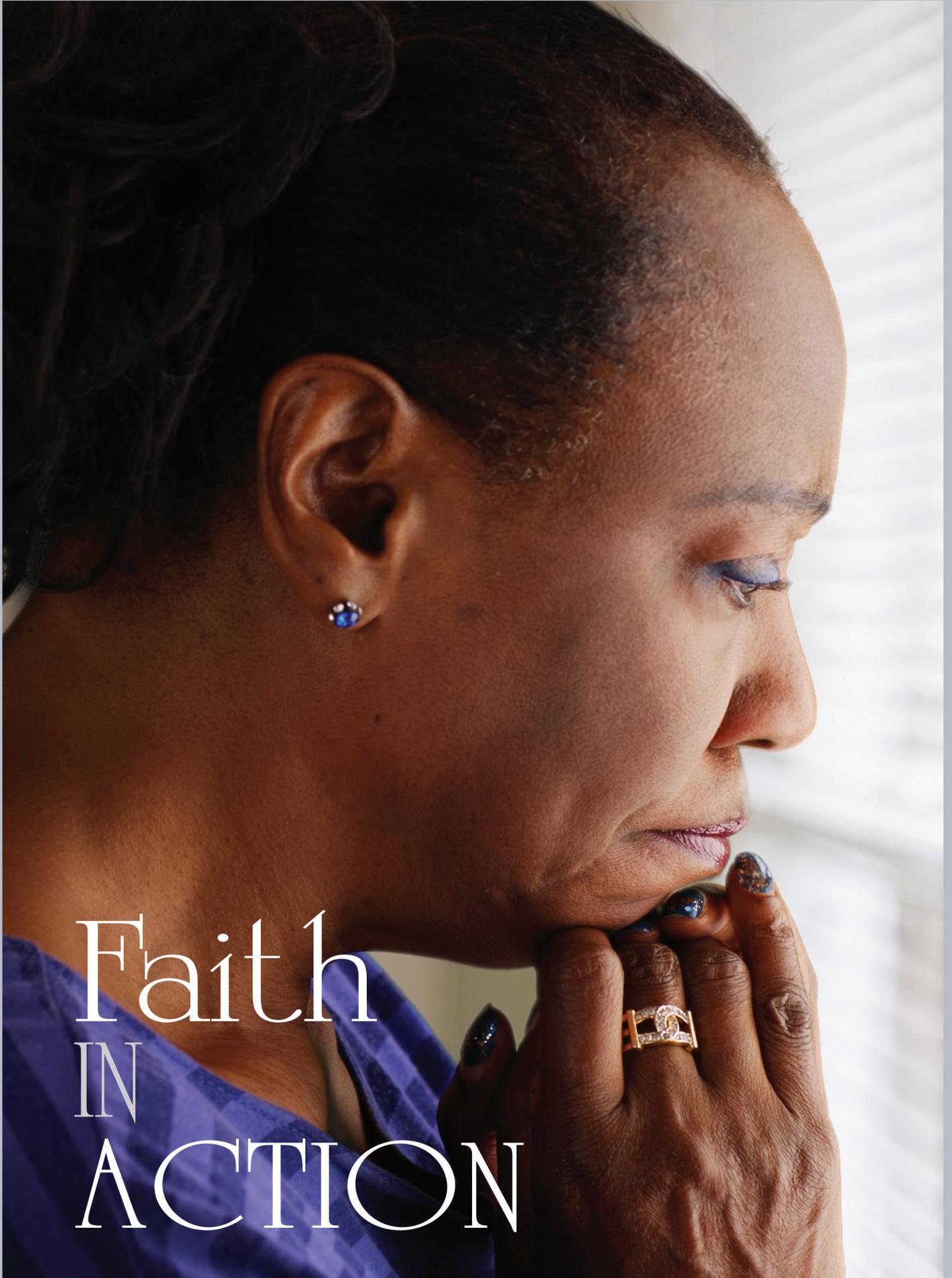


THE IMPROVED ADULT TEACHER SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY



Faith  
IN  
ACTION

# **THE IMPROVED ADULT TEACHER SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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# The Order of Service

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
  - II. Singing
  - III. The Apostles' Creed
  - IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
  - V. Singing
  - VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
  - VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
  - VIII. The Decalogue
- 

## The Lesson

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
  - II. Class study of the lesson
  - III. Warning bell — 5 minutes
  - IV. Closing bell — silence
- 

## The Closing

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

### Editorial Staff

Rev. Roderick Belin, Publisher  
Rev. Garland F. Pierce, Editor  
Dr. Catherine S. Powell, Lessons

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.



### The Church School Creed

I believe my A.M.E. Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

## FAITH IN JESUS

Lesson Scripture: Acts 3

Print: Acts 3:11-21

*Key Verses: "And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you." Acts 3:16 (NRSV)*

### ACTS 3:11-21 (NRSV)

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished.

12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"

13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him.

14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you,

15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

16 And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17 And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

18 In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer.

19 Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

20 so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus,

21 who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.

### ACTS 3:11-21 (KJV)

11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the

times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets

since the world began.

## HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

November 27 – December 3

<b>Monday</b>	Psalm 118:1-9 (Take Refuge in the Lord)
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalm 118:10-14 (The Lord, My Strength and Salvation)
<b>Wednesday</b>	Acts 3:22-26 (A Blessing Promised to All Peoples)
<b>Thursday</b>	Luke 7:44-50 (Your Faith Saved You)
<b>Friday</b>	Acts 13:44-49 (Contrasting Responses by Jews and Gentiles)
<b>Saturday</b>	Acts 3:1-10 (Crippled Beggar Requests Alms)
<b>Sunday</b>	Acts 3:11-21 (Repent and Believe in Jesus)

## INTRODUCTION

Jim, an automobile enthusiast, owns several vintage cars. Although he has had no formal automotive mechanics' training, Jim prides himself on his ability to diagnose and correct most mechanical issues that he encounters. In one particular case, however, he diagnosed a problem that he was unable to correct. Reluctantly, Jim took the car to a professional mechanic, shared his diagnosis, and asked the mechanic to do the repairs. Shortly

after retrieving the car from the shop, the previously identified mechanical issues resurfaced. Returning to the mechanic's shop, Jim complained and requested justification for the bill that he'd already paid. The shop owner's response was simple: "We did what you asked us to do. If the issues are not resolved, we will be happy to do our own diagnostics and give you an estimate on the costs for repairs."

Unless we are careful, our prayers can emulate Jim's behavior. We have strong tendencies to diagnose our own problems and tell God how to fix them. Today's lesson focuses on a man whose understandings of his needs did not match with God's assessments and the actual blessings God would make available to him through Peter and John.

## Vocabulary

- **Acts** – Also known as the Acts of the Apostles, the book of Acts historically connects the Gospels and the Epistles. Luke, who also wrote Luke's Gospel, wrote the book of Acts. This is a sequel that begins with the last 40 verses of Luke's Gospel and covers the 30-year period immediately following Jesus' resurrection.

- **Alms [aumz]** – Charitable handouts to the poor.
- **Solomon’s Portico [por-ti-co]** – A porch or walkway, supported by columns that provided access to the Jerusalem Temple.

### BIBLE STORY

Acts 3:1-10 provides background information for understanding the events in our printed text. Notably, Peter and John, along with many other people, rushed to the temple one day for 3:00 p.m. prayers. The route through Solomon’s Portico was lined with beggars, hoping to receive alms from people about to enter the temple. One of them, a man with lifelong physical impairments, asked Peter and John for money. Instead of receiving money, the man received much more. In addition to physical healing, the man also received wholeness or completeness that could only be gained by knowing and accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

#### **Peter Confronts Spectators, Acts 3:11-16**

We can only imagine the spectacle the healed beggar must have become. As he humbled himself to the power and authority of the name, Jesus Christ, the man was healed and enabled to go into the temple on his own, “Walking and jumping, and praising God” (Acts 3:8).

Astonished by what was happening, people quickly gathered around him to gain better understandings about the miraculous events they were witnessing. Using this as a “teachable moment,” Peter refuted all notions that he and John had healed the man. Instead, he identified Almighty God as the Supreme Arbiter, who used these events to glorify Jesus Christ, whose name and authority had (by faith) effected the man’s healing. This assertion provided a “springboard” from which Peter engaged the crowd with an updated introduction to Jesus Christ.

Peter not only introduced Jesus Christ in a new way, but he also reminded the Jews of how they had rejected and falsely accused Jesus, insisting that Jesus should be killed instead of a known murderer. Furthermore, Peter apprised them of the fact their efforts to kill the “Author of life” had failed because God had resurrected Jesus from the dead. Peter and John, as well as the healed man, stood before them as evidences of Jesus Christ’s victory. All, by faith, had demonstrated the power and authority that continuously rests in the name of Jesus Christ.

#### **Peter Points the Way to Salvation, Acts 3:17-21**

Peter didn’t condemn the Jews for sins against Jesus. Instead, Peter blamed

their deeds on ignorance. He also offered reassurance and new hope. The Jews needed to understand that Jesus' death was not final. His crucifixion and death were fulfillments of long-standing prophecies that included the fact the Messiah would suffer. Hence, Peter offered new hope for those who were willing to repent, receive God's forgiveness, and accept (by faith) new life through the power and authority of Jesus Christ's name. Peter also inferred that acceptance by faith had become essential because Jesus is in heaven and will remain there until God restores everything according to God's plans. When God's plans are fulfilled, Jesus will return a second time, also according to God's prophecies. In essence, Peter was saying you "missed him and gravely mistreated him the first time. But, you do have a second chance. It's up to you!"

### LIFE APPLICATION

Today is the first Sunday in Advent. It ushers in a sacred period for reflecting and reexamining our faith. What can we learn from the beggar's faith in today's lesson? Considering the man's physical disability and imagining his lived experiences, we can easily discern human logic in his request for money. Fortunately, Peter and John realized the man needed

much more. Like us, to enjoy the abundant life Jesus promises, the man needed wholeness—spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical completeness that only faith in Jesus Christ can bring. 1 Corinthians 2:9 tells us "... as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." New life was the result of the man's newly found faith.

The Jews, who witnessed the events in today's lesson, were also given opportunity for new life. Peter's scriptural discussions, updates on the risen Savior, and demonstrations of miraculous healing power in the authority of the Savior's name must have moved some of those same Jews to repentance. The scriptures do not reveal how many. Yet, we know all of those witnesses had sufficient information to finally know Jesus' true identity as well as the fact that salvation was still available. God's prophecies do not lie! Peter's discourse on Christ's Second Coming also sanctioned hopes for eternal life.

For us, the same lessons are available. With regard to prayer requests, nothing in this lesson suggests that praying with specific requests should be abandoned. Instead, flexibility with a larger view to-

ward praying for God's will is implied. Jesus' prayer in Luke 22:42 is revelatory and highly reflective of this approach to prayer. Knowing that the pain and suffering associated with crucifixion was imminently awaiting him, Jesus first prayed with specificity: "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me." He quickly added, "Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." From a focus on immediate needs and concerns, Jesus transitioned to a "big picture" focus on eternity, giving first priority to pleasing God.

Also, as with the Jewish onlookers, God extends to us opportunities to be forgiven of all past sins. Confession, repentance, and faith in Jesus Christ are all God requires. Micah 7:19 promises that God will cast our sins into a "sea of forgetfulness." Also, the same promises Peter made to the onlookers (Acts 3:19) are available to us.

### SUMMARY

This lesson has great implications for living the abundant life Jesus promises. It is important to remember that we don't always know what we need, but God does. It is also important to remember that no

matter how sinful we may have been, God will forgive us. "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart..." (Psalms 51:17).

### Questions

1. How do you feel about giving alms to the poor?
2. What are your thoughts about miraculous healings today?
3. Peter's bold witness helped those who witness the miraculous healing to understand better the power of Jesus. How is our witness bold, with whom do we share it, and what does it say about the nature and power of Jesus?

### CLOSING DEVOTION

Lord, your love and compassion continue to astound us. Let this always be the case for us. Please don't allow us to become complacent or jaded by ordinariness in our lives. We thank you for Jesus, and we pray that you will help us remain mindful of the power and authority in his name. Please also enable us to be mindful of the need to ask that your will be done, knowing that you will provide everything we need. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## FAITH TO DISCERN

Lesson Scripture: Acts 13:1-12

Print: Same

*Key Verse: When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord. Acts 13:12 (NRSV)*

### ACTS 13:1-12 (NRSV)

1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul.

2 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."

3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John also to assist them.

6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they met a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet, named Bar-Jesus.

7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and wanted to hear the word of God.

8 But the magician Elymas (for that is the translation of his name) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

9 But Saul, also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him

10 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?"

11 And now listen—the hand of the Lord is

against you, and you will be blind for a while, unable to see the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he went about groping for someone to lead him by the hand.

12 When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord.

### ACTS 13:1-12 (KJV)

1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

5 And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

6 And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Barjesus:

7 Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

9 Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him.

10 And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

12 Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

## HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS

December 4 – December 10

<b>Monday</b>	Deuteronomy 31:14-15, 23; 34:9 (Joshua Discerned as New Leader)
<b>Tuesday</b>	1 Samuel 3:1-9 (Eli Senses God's Call to Samuel)
<b>Wednesday</b>	1 John 4:1-6 (Test the Spirits)
<b>Thursday</b>	John 9:13-17 (Blind Man Discerns Jesus as Prophet)
<b>Friday</b>	Romans 1:8-12, 16-17 (Paul's Strategy: Jews First, Then Greeks)
<b>Saturday</b>	Acts 14:21-28 (Door of Faith Opened to Gentiles)
<b>Sunday</b>	Acts 13:1-12 (Spirit-Filled Leadership Discernment)

## INTRODUCTION

Discernment, the ability to distinguish godly spirits/actions from false ones, is essential to successful Christian ministry. According to 1 Corinthians 12:10, discernment is a gift from the Holy Spirit. In addition to gifting Paul with discernment, the Holy Spirit also empowered him to

openly face the opposition to the spread of the Gospel in a powerful one on one confrontation.

Because of its many negative connotations, including *hostility*, *conflict*, *argument*, and *disagreement*, Christians generally prefer not to engage in confrontation. The negative connotations are antithetical to the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) that we are to use as behavioral models. In today's lesson, however, Paul demonstrates how confrontation can be both appropriate and effective when directed by the Holy Spirit.

## VOCABULARY

- **Elymas [el' i-mas]** – A hostile sorcerer/magician and false prophet, who was also known as Bar-Jesus (“son of salvation”).
- **Proconsul** – An influential Roman official; Proconsul Sergius Paulus was Cyprus' governor.
- **Paul** – Saul of Tarsus' Roman name; it was representative of his Roman citizenship. This was the first time he

was called Paul and never again *Saul*, which was his Hebrew name.

### BIBLE STORY

Beginning with the events in today's lesson, Paul replaced Peter as the central figure in the book of Acts. Today's scripture also chronicles the launching of Paul's first missionary journey, with Barnabas accompanying him. John Mark later joined them. Until now, the book of Acts has focused primarily on gaining Jewish converts. With Paul and Barnabas, the apostles' ministry shifted to focus on God's complete salvation plans to include Gentiles and the establishment of the Universal Church.

#### **Set Apart, Blessed, and Sent Forth to Serve, Acts 13:1-3**

These scriptures reveal the circumstances and the means by which God commissioned Paul and Barnabas (vs. 1-3) to establish a precedent that should guide contemporary practices with church leadership appointments. The Holy Spirit informed five devout men (prophets and teachers), who were worshipping and fasting in Antioch's temple, that God wanted them to set apart or dedicate Paul and Barnabas. After fasting and praying, and before sending them on their mission, the men placed their hands on Paul and Barnabas. This was a symbolic re-

ceiving of God's blessings, including the Holy Spirit's guidance and divine authority, to do the work to which they were being called.

#### **Opposition Comes Quickly, Acts 13:4-8**

Paul and Barnabas sailed to the island of Cypress, which was Barnabas' home. Salamis, the largest city, was their first stop. There, along with assistance from John Mark, they preached in the Jewish synagogues. The scriptures do not indicate the occurrence of any threats to the ministry at this point. However, when they left Salamis and went to Paphos (the administrative capital and governing seat), serious opposition arose as they responded to some good news.

The good news came in the form of an invitation from Sergius Paulus, the governor or proconsul, who wanted to hear the word of God. However, Elymas, a sorcerer with considerable influence, was not enthusiastic about the invitation. He felt threatened! If the proconsul believed in Jesus Christ, Elymas realized he was likely to also see the falsehood of Elymas' sorcery, and he would be out of a job and whatever power he may have acquired. So, he "opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul away from the faith" (Acts 13:8).

## **Discernment and Confrontation Overpower Satanic Opposition, Acts 13:9-12**

In looking at the descriptions of Paul's demeanor as he confronted Elymas, we see Holy Spirit-inspired boldness epitomized. Paul demonstrated absolute confidence in his position as he "looked intently at him" (v. 9). With discernment that surpasses human wisdom, Paul perceived and addressed Elymas as the impostor he really was. "*Son of the devil, enemy of all righteousness, full of deceit and villainy*" (v. 10) were certainly not terms Elymas expected to hear. Furthermore, Paul "called him out" for his true motives. Paul also demonstrated the Holy Spirit's superiority over the magic/sorcery that Elymas used to influence people. Ironically, Paul caused Elymas to experience physical blindness as he did on the Damascus Road. Stricken with blindness, Elymas "stumbled and floundered" like Paul and other ordinary men do. Elymas' ordinariness was highlighted by the fact the blindness caused him to depend on other people to lead him. As always, we see the fulfillment of God's plans in this situation. "When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was astonished at the teaching about the Lord" (Acts 13:12). We can only hope that Elymas, like Paul,

eventually saw the "true light."

### **LIFE APPLICATION**

Discernment is definitely a gift for which we should all pray. Pagans believe in the practice of sorcery/magic. As revealed in this lesson, however, discernment should never be viewed as "magical power" to be used for personal gain or influence. Many scriptures, including Deuteronomy 18:11-12 and Exodus 22:18, attest to the fact that God abhors magic. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 tells us that the gifts of the Spirit, including discernment of spirits, are given for the "common good" or the spread of Christianity. The miracle resulting from Paul's discernment manifested Jesus' predictions for Holy Spirit empowerment (John 14:15-16; 25-26).

Opposition is to be expected (John 16:33). Paul's experiences provide vibrant insights into how Christians are to prepare for ministry as well as how they are to overcome opposition. The model for personal preparation is revealed in Acts 9. Obedience and personal prayer obviously humbled Saul (now Paul) to submit wholly to God's will. When God deemed Paul to be ready, God sent Ananias to personally assist with Paul's new identity and to help Paul transition to acceptance in the Christian community, and new life in Jesus Christ. Ananias laid his

hands on Paul and became God's conduit for impartation of the Holy Spirit into Paul's life. Thus, Paul's preparation for ministry began with Ananias.

Group or congregational dedicatory practice is modeled in today's lesson. Although the church at Antioch already had prophets and teachers (Acts 13:3), they still sought the Holy Spirit's guidance through prayer and fasting. Their devotion was rewarded in two ways. First, those five devout men were blessed to be the first to receive the news of Paul and Barnabas' selection for special ministry. Secondly, after more fasting and praying, they became God's anointed vessels for "laying hands" on Paul and Barnabas before sending them forward on their journey.

Proper preparation and Holy Spirit empowerment are needed for overcoming opposition. This is the position from which Paul was able to engage so forcefully with Elymas. Our opposition(s) may arise from many different sources. It is easy to say we will just wait on the Lord. However, waiting on the Lord is not always an inactive position. It often means continuing to move forward as directed by the Holy Spirit and acting only upon the Holy Spirit's instructions. Confrontations can be negative or positive. When

not in compliance with the Holy Spirit, confrontation is likely to offend, whether we are speaking truth in a situation or not. On the other hand, when directed by the Holy Spirit, confrontation will be effective.

It is good to remember that in some cases, we may judge situations or behaviors according to our own standards. Likewise, we may attempt to correct someone else based upon our own timing and beliefs. We are told in 1 Corinthians 2:11 that human knowledge is gained through the human spirit within us. But, "what is truly God's" is unattainable, except through the Holy Spirit. Confrontations coming from the human spirit are likely to offend, and hinder efforts to spread the Gospel. Confrontation emanating from the Holy Spirit can be depended upon to facilitate the spread of the Gospel as demonstrated in today's lesson.

### **SUMMARY**

This lesson teaches that we are not to run away from confrontations. Neither are we to run toward confrontations unless we are directed by the Holy Spirit. No matter how noble or spiritual we may believe our positions to be, we are never in a position to judge. As with Paul and other "Heroes of Faith," we must rely on the Holy Spirit for guidance.

**Questions**

1. How would you describe your personal approach to confrontational situations?
2. What new thoughts have you gleaned from this lesson that could help in your selection and preparation of leaders?
3. What inappropriate approaches to opposition have you witnessed in your congregation? What would have been more appropriate, Holy Spirit-inspired approaches in the situation(s) named?

**CLOSING DEVOTION**

Our Father, we thank you for Paul's examples. Beyond this Advent Season, please bless us to remain mindful of the need to fast and pray while seeking to know your will in all circumstances. Please also bless us to know and to respect the essentialness of Holy Spirit guidance and empowerment for success in doing the works to which we are called. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

# DECALOGUE

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**Superintendent**—And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

**Superintendent**—Thou shalt not make unto thyself any graven image, nor the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

**Superintendent**—Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

**Superintendent**—Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord hath made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested on the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the seventh day and hallowed it.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

My soul be on thy guard;  
Ten thousand foes arise:  
And hosts of sins are pressing hard  
To draw thee from the skies.

**Superintendent**—Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

**Superintendent**—Thou shalt not kill.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

**Superintendent**—Thou shalt not commit adultery.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

**Superintendent**—Thou shalt not steal.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

**Superintendent**—Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

**Superintendent**—Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

**School**—Lord, have mercy upon us, and write these laws upon our hearts.

Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee!  
E'en though it be a cross  
That raiseth me;  
Still all my song shall be,  
Nearer, my God, to thee!  
Nearer to thee!

**Superintendent**—Hear what Christ, our Savior, saith: thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great Commandment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two Commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All**—Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

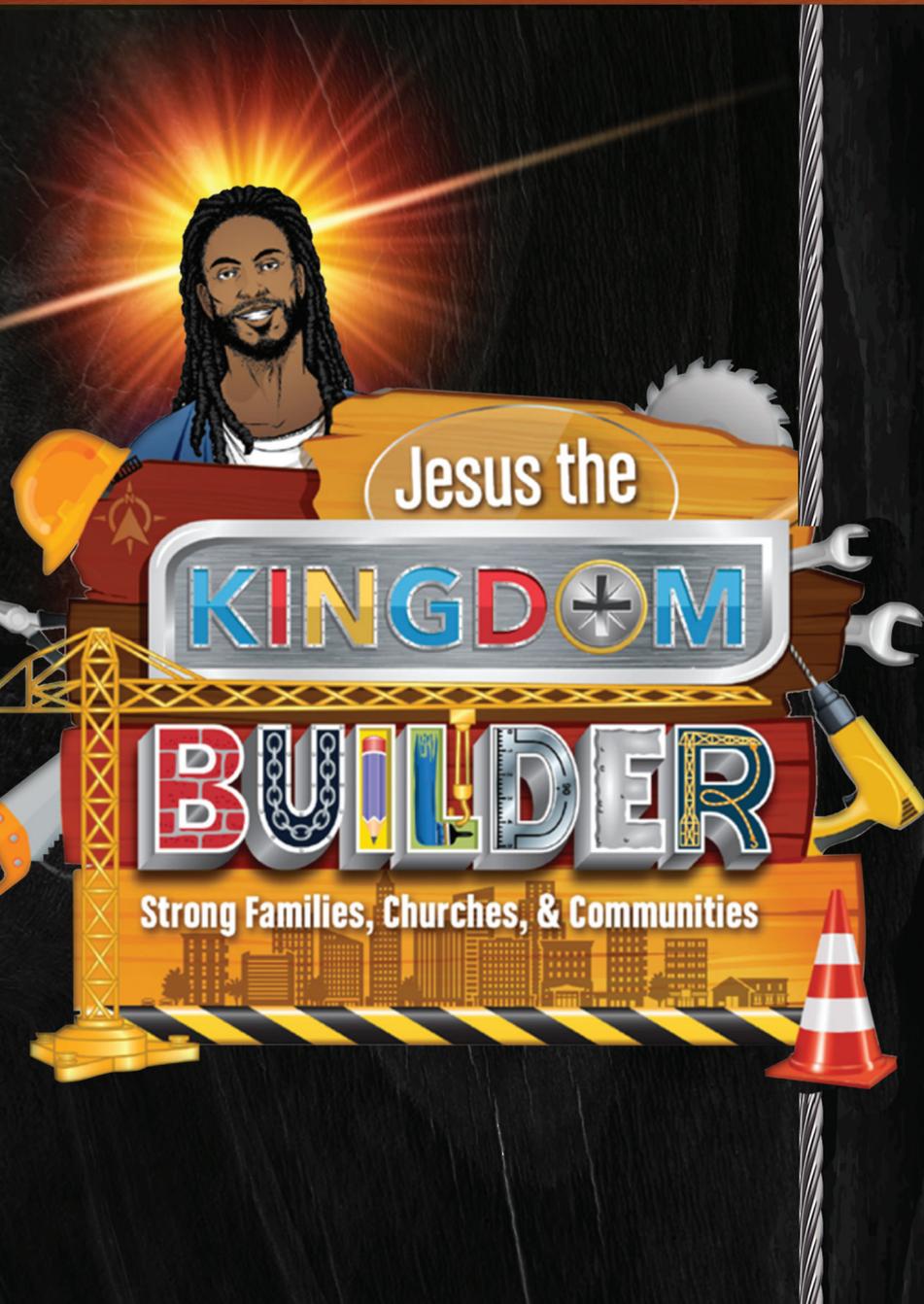
“For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”  
(Hebrews 11:10, NIV)



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