

the story

GOD'S STORY IS OUR STORY

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“ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

~ ACTS 1:8 (NIV)

Paul is sent _____.

“ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 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.' So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.”

~ ACTS 13:1-5 (NIV)

“ The 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. Though they found no proper ground for a death sentence, they asked Pilate to have him executed. When they had carried out all that was written about him, they took him down from the cross and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he was seen by those who had traveled with him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now his witnesses to our people.

'We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.' ”

~ ACTS 13:27-33a (NIV)

Paul faces _____.

“ On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy. They began to contradict what Paul was saying and heaped abuse on him.

Then 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. For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

'I have made you a light for the Gentiles,
that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.' ”

~ ACTS 13:44-47 (NIV)

Paul moves on and _____.

“ When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. But 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. So they shook the dust off their feet as a warning to them and went to Iconium.”

~ ACTS 13:48-51 (NIV)

“ In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.” ~ ACTS 19:20 (NIV)

So WHAT?

Your journey is not just about _____ ,
it's about who you are _____ .

Paul was _____ (_____) .

“ ...I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea.

... I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.”

~ 2 CORINTHIANS 11:23b-25 & 27 (NIV)

“ Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.”

~ ACTS 14:19-20 (NIV)

Paul was _____ .

“ And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.” ~ ACTS 13:52 (NIV)

“ The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

~ ACTS 16:22-24 (NIV)

“ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them.” ~ ACTS 16:25 (NIV)

Paul was _____ .

“ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

~ JOHN 14:16-17 (NIV)

“ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”

~ JOHN 16:7 (NIV)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

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- 1- If you were a traveling salesman what would you want to sell? Do you think you would enjoy a life on the road? Why or why not?
- 2- Paul gave his whole life to spreading the message of Jesus. What are some of the things you have given your whole life to?
- 3- As Paul shared the message of Jesus he, and the other believers, faced spiritual attacks. Read Acts 13:1-12 and Acts 16:16-34 what form did these attacks take? What kind of spiritual battles might we face as we share the message of Jesus today?
- 4- Paul's journey was marked by commitment. What was he committed to? Why was it so important for Paul to have been so committed on his journey?
- 5- Paul's journey was also marked by joy. How is joy different than happiness? Why is joy such an important characteristic for Christians?
- 6- If a close friend or family member came to you and said, "I have watched your life and listened to your words and I want what you have. What must I believe and do to be saved?" What would you share with them?

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