

ACTS 13 Broad Sowing and Multiplication

Acts 13 records the first half of Paul's first missionary journey. The Holy Spirit calls Paul and Barnabas to take the gospel to new places so they travel to Cyprus and several cities of what is now Turkey. A close look at their actions reveals several strategies that we can also employ.

The first thing to notice is the diversity of people they shared with. Because they don't know who will respond to the gospel they shared with everybody, trusting God to work in the hearts of those he chooses. We also notice that the message spread in ways greater than Paul and Barnabas could personally accomplish by themselves. In verse 16 Paul speaks in the synagogue of Pisidian Antioch and is invited back the next week to speak again. Only this time the "entire city" shows up! Some

of those who heard the message and believed invited their friends and neighbors to hear the gospel. In verse 49 Luke writes that "The word of the Lord spread through the whole region." This is an example of what we call "spiritual multiplication" where people who respond to the gospel are disciplined to win and disciple others.

Think

Verse 49 says, "The word of the Lord spread through the whole region." How was this accomplished?

Talk

1. List the various places where Paul and Barnabas spoke and the different people that they reached with the message of Christ in this chapter.

This illustrates the principle of "sowing broadly" - - reaching as many people as possible with the life changing message of the gospel.

2. What other ministry principles can you find in this chapter?

Act

Let's say that God is calling you like he did Paul and Barnabas to reach an area for Christ. Where would you start? What would you do? What would be your strategy? What tools would you use?