

This journey reads like OUR lives. We will endure some good things and some difficult things.

All is advancing the work of World Evangelism, and all is in God’s will.

We will therefore expect hardship, setbacks, success, failure, all mixed together.

I have noted 10 Experiences Paul & Friends went through.

This is typical, even now.

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1. THE TEDIUM OF TRAVEL

To Seleucia, the coast nearby, then sailed to Salamis in Cyprus, 13:4.

Does travel still have a special Romance for you? Documents, paying, cabins, food, expenses, tips, customs tax, travel companions,

ILL: Ben; Soldier, Talks of Advancing, Attack, Flanking, But mostly Preparation, Training, Waiting.

Typical of journeys anywhere.

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2. NEGATIVE PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

13:4-12, Their first recorded engagement took place on the Island of Cyprus, where Paul curses a sorcerer, Bar Jesus, with blindness.

Sent People will be Opposed; They will make enemies. Oppositional People.

Jerusalem, Insane people, Disruptive and even dangerous.

When engaging people with the Gospel, it will happen.

We do not bring religion, but Redemption.

The longer we are Sent Ones, the more likely it is that these things will happen.

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4. PROBLEMS TURN TO SUCESS.

First Believer! Sergius Paulus Came to Faith!

For us, the greatest opportunities emerge out of Problems.

-Gulf War led to Jerusalem Church.

-Second Intifada gave birth to a new congregation in the Judean Hills and the Rehovot congregation.

-Sudanese Refugees resulted in a new congregation in Tel Aviv.

APP: Look for opportunities. When we see trouble, GO to that place!

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5. CREATING JEALOUSY

People everywhere think of themselves as morally superior. Natural.

In Pisidian Antioch, Paul preached the COMPLETE GOSPEL in the synagogue

Acts 13:16-41, He explained prophecies, Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, forgiveness and salvation.

The sermons of Acts remind us how clear the Gospel is.

13:44-49, When great numbers of Gentiles turn out the next Sabbath to hear him, the Jewish elders were jealous and hostile.

ILL: In Israel, we encounter much jealousy that Gentiles, or worse, Messianics would claim to be close to God.

Still, we can expect Sent People to keep repeating initial success? Not always!

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10. BEING MISUNDERSTOOD.

In Lystra and Derbe the two are mistaken for pagan gods.

They barely keep an enthusiastic crowd from offering sacrifices to them when Paul healed a cripples man. .

Zeus and Hermes were worshiped there. The people though Paul & Barnabas were those gods and wanted to worship them!

Sent Ones are sometimes misunderstood.

People thought they could give them something that they could not.

APP: sometimes people want power, money, green card, etc.

I wonder, Antioch Mission Board? Q, “What were you telling these people that would make them think you and Barnabas were gods?”

Misunderstandings can turn **Violent**.

We have a case of ATTEMPTED MURDER

Some people who followed them from Antioch and Iconium just to hinder their work, succeed in turning the crowd against them.

14:8-20, Paul assaulted and left for dead.

The work of the Gospel turned VIOLENCE. The gospel is Divisive.

Jesus said that He did not come to bring Peace, but a Sword, to divide parents, children, siblings.

If we succeed in our work, we will break up families and communities.

So, why are we shocked at opposition? Why are we surprised at violence?

Despite the hazards, there are now a “large number of disciples.”

The Muslim world will not be won without physical sacrifice on all levels, and the world will not be won without sacrifice on all levels.

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CONCLUSION

They made the return journey home, the direct short way.

14:21-28, Finally, they return to their sending church and report how God has opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles.

They told their sending church what had happened. What God had done.

Spent a long time with them.

As Sent Ones, our first line of Spiritual Authority is our Sending Churches.

This is why we came back and Report, to be accountable to those who Sent us.

One of the sweetest parts of being a Sent One.

And, the Holy Spirit guides us

Rom. 8:14, “As many as are led...”

In the midst of difficult choices, we are sensitive to the Spirit,

Expecting Him to give us a sense of peace when we are moving in God’s chosen way.

PRAY...