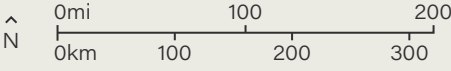


The Word

one to one



→ Barnabas and Paul's journey



Episode 27

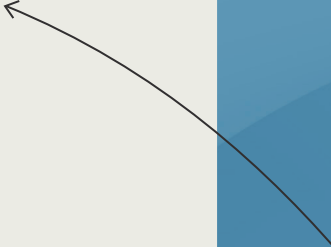
The Word wins!

ACTS 12:25 – 13:12

*In the previous episode:
King Herod takes on
God... and loses.*

*In this episode:
The gospel explodes
outwards.*

²⁵ When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.



John, also called Mark: the man who wrote Mark's Gospel, one of the four eyewitness accounts of Jesus' life.

To the ends of the earth?

This episode starts a new section in Acts, and a huge expansion in the spread of the good news about Jesus.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus promised the apostles *'...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'*

Jerusalem? Yes. Judea and Samaria? Yes. But what about *'the ends of the earth'*? We've been told that the gospel really is for anyone, but how will that happen?

Who is the focus on now?

- Peter drops out of view. We're back with Barnabas and Saul.
- They've successfully delivered financial aid to the Christians in Jerusalem.
- Now they're back, taking John (Mark) with them.

¹ 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.

Herod the tetrarch: also known as Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee. Uncle of Herod Agrippa I, who put Peter in prison in the previous episode.

What do we learn about the church in Antioch?

- It's led by people focused on teaching about Jesus.
- It's a very mixed group... Barnabas is from a Jewish background in Cyprus (Acts 4:36); 'Niger' is Latin for black, so Simeon is probably an African Christian. Lucius is from Cyrene in North Africa. Manaen is from a powerful family... he grew up with the ruler of Galilee.

Here we have the 'gospel for all' being lived out.

² While they were worshipping 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 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

A new mission begins

Who will drive this new phase of gospel expansion?

- The Holy Spirit. He sends a message that Barnabas and Saul have a job to do. **(v. 2)**

This isn't the church's idea. This is God's plan.

But it is the church's job to put the plan into action. Barnabas and Saul are sent out to spread the news about Jesus' kingdom even further. **(v. 3)**

This is what is often known as Paul's first missionary journey.

Fasting: not eating, often during an intense period of prayer.

Placed their hands on them: a way of commissioning people in the church for a specific job.