

THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (ACTS 13-14) MAY 3, 2026



The Church that began in Jerusalem (core) is now actively spreading the Gospel and growing the Kingdom of Jesus to the world (corners)

Paul and Barnabas are sent out to lead this mission, selected by Holy Spirit

The extent of this first missionary journey: Antioch (Syria) to Cyprus (Salamis and Paphos) to Perga (Pamphylia) to Pisidia to Iconium to Lystra to Derbe back to Antioch.

Two men covered 1400 miles in two years (46-48 AD); who's your partner and your place?

The places and processes of mission work will change, but the preaching stays the same: Biblical. Mission without Scripture is Marketing

1. People need to hear the Word of God, regardless of their response to it

- Acts 13:7 The governor wanted to hear the Word
- Acts 13:15 The people longed for encouragement
- Acts 13:38-39 The message must always clearly point to Jesus for salvation
- Acts 14:22-23 The Word encourages believers and establishes leaders (elders)

2. The devil will always fight the message of God through the people of God to try to hinder its effect

- Acts 13:8 - Opposition is always demonic!
- Acts 13:50-51 - The devil will create lies to fight the Truth
- Acts 14:2 - The enemy poisons the minds of those who will listen to him, rather than God
- Acts 14:11,19 - When you won't fall to praise, the enemy will persecute you

3. The Word of God will always be effective through the power of Holy Spirit

- Acts 13:11-12 - The governor got saved, despite the demonic attack
- Acts 13:48-49,52 - The Word spreads and people are saved
- Acts 14:1,4 - Holy Spirit power cannot be stopped
- Acts 14:20 - There is power in the Church surrounding people in prayer
- Acts 14:27 - The first missionary journey was extremely successful, but it did not happen without opposition.

We as the Church must prioritize the communication of the Word of God, expect the enemy to oppose that task, but believe that Holy Spirit will use His Word to change lives.

The Moravian Revival of 1727 launched a global mission that lasted over 100 years from a small German village of Herrnhut that preached the Gospel across Europe, the Americas, Asia, and Africa. The amount of people does not determine the effectiveness, it is always the commitment to dependence on Holy Spirit and declaration of the Word of God!

What corner of your world needs to hear about Jesus? There must always be a first before there can be a movement.

1. Read Acts 13:2-4 and Romans 8:14.

What role does Holy Spirit play in missions? What are some ways that churches don't seek Holy Spirit and try to do it in their own strength?

2. Read Acts 13:38-39; Ephesians 2:8-9; Habakkuk 2:4.

What is the core message of the gospel? What are some ways that the gospel is being distorted in order to reduce opposition? What steps must be taken to ensure the integrity of the gospel so as not to lead people into a false hope?

3. Read Acts 13:44-50; 14:1-5; John 15:18-20.

Why do some people readily accept the gospel and others fiercely attack it? What role does the proclaimer of the gospel play in people's responses? Explain.

4. Read Acts 14:19-22; James 1:2-4; Philippians 1:29.

How should Christians understand suffering in mission? What is a healthy way to process the suffering? Jim Elliot went to Ecuador to share the gospel and was killed by the tribe he lovingly served in 1956 at the age of 29. One of his famous quotes **he is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose** inspired others to go into missionary work. His wife Elisabeth went back with others and led many of that tribe to Jesus. What would have been your response?

5. Read Acts 14:21-23; Titus 1:5; 2 Timothy 2:2.

What is the relationship between evangelism and church formation? Why is discipleship essential for long-term gospel impact? What role do elders play in church leadership?