



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### Jesus Calls Us to Fish for People January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### Acts 13:1-12

Acts 13:1–12 (NIV) 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. <sup>2</sup>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.” <sup>3</sup>So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. <sup>4</sup>The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. <sup>5</sup>When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper. <sup>6</sup>They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, <sup>7</sup>who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. <sup>8</sup>But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. <sup>9</sup>Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, <sup>10</sup>“You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup>Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.” Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup>When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

1. There’s an old phrase in sports circles: “Players not plays.” What does the saying mean? Can you think of examples that might serve to prove or disprove the saying? How might it apply to your job or career?
2. According to the sermon, what is “public ministry”? How does it differ from every Christian’s call to “make disciples”? How do the church’s public ministry and the Christian’s private ministry complement each other?

3. Agree or disagree and why? Our sin makes us unworthy to share Jesus with others. Read 1 Timothy 1:16. Citing his own example, what important reminder does Paul give us? Use his words to explain how you and I are living proof of God’s grace.
4. In what sense are all of us Christians called to be a “Barnabas”? (Hint: Look up the meaning of this nickname.) Who is your “Barnabas”? For whom can you be a “Barnabas”?
5. Read Acts 13:6-7,12. Agree or disagree and why? It is especially intimidating to share the gospel with “intelligent” and “influential” people.
6. Name some modern-day counterparts of Elymas the sorcerer. What does the existence (and success) of such individuals tell you about the people of our world? How does this impact the way you think and feel about “fishing for people”?
7. Agree or disagree and why? Fishing for people involves nothing more than proclaiming God’s truth.
8. In the sports world it’s “players not plays.” In discipleship it’s “Word not workers.” Explain.
9. Share with the group, if you will, the name of someone you’d like to invite to worship. Seek advice as to how you may do this. Pray together that God grants and blesses the opportunity.