

# Adventures In Preaching

(Acts 13:4-12)

- Introduction:
1. The Bible truly is a treasure.
  2. It records so many stories for us that serve as examples and encouragement as we attempt to live as disciples of Jesus.
  3. One such story is recorded in Acts 13:4-12.
  4. Let's examine this passage tonight and draw out some practical truths that can help our perspective and purpose.

## I. An Overview of the Text

- A. Paul and Barnabas are on their first missionary journey.
- B. They had come to Paphos, on the western side of the island of Cyprus.
- C. There they encountered two people.
  1. Sergius Paulus
  2. Bar-Jesus, also called Elymas.
- D. Elymas attempted to turn Sergius Paulus from the truth.
- E. In response, Paul strikes Elymas blind for a season.
- F. As a result of this encounter, Sergius Paulus became a believer in Jesus.

## II. Lessons We Can Learn

- A. People are Interested in the Truth.
  1. (Acts 13:7).
  2. (Acts 10:33).
  3. We need to stop blaming others and using the disposition of the lost as an excuse for our lack of evangelistic zeal!
- B. Some People Hate the Truth.
  1. (Acts 13:6,8).
  2. (1 John 4:1; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; Jeremiah 5:30-31).
- C. We Should Be Angered by the Subversion of the Truth.
  1. (Acts 13:9-11).
  2. We need to learn that Christianity isn't a "door-mat;" there are things that should anger us!
  3. Just make sure that the things which anger you are the things which anger the Lord.
- D. Some are Astonished by the Truth.
  1. (Acts 13:12).
  2. Note that he was astonished, not by the miracle, but by the teaching of the Lord!
  3. (Romans 1:16).
  4. (Jonah 3:2).

- Conclusion:
1. Truth is all-important in this story. It was preached, attacked, defended and believed.
  2. Truth remains all-important even today (John 8:32).
  3. May God give us the courage to proclaim it, defend it, and obey it.