

Theme: The Word of God is more powerful than all the spiritual forces of darkness. God’s servants have spiritual authority and power to fulfill His calling in their lives.

Introduction and Background: Mission accomplished – B and S return, now with John Mark in tow. Sent out by the church in Antioch

I. SPIRITUAL COMMISSION: Barnabas and Saul are sent by the Holy Spirit

A. How?

1. Through worship, prayer, Fasting!
 - Result? HS speaks – clear direction
2. Through laying on of hands
 - Spiritual Commissioning
 - vs. 4 “Sent out by the Holy Spirit”

B. Why? **The intentional, systematic ministry to the Gentile regions is undertaken**

C. Where?

1. First missionary journey for Barnabas and Saul – in Cypress
2. Ends up in the court of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus.

II. SPIRITUAL OPPOSITION

A. The “Prophet” Bar-Jesus

1. His names?
 - a. “Bar-Jesus” = “son of salvation”
 - b. Elymas – “sage” or “wise one”
2. His claim?
 - Wisdom – supernatural/spiritual insight

B. A “False Prophet” (7-10)

1. Seeks to *turn* people away from the faith
2. “Son of Salvation” or “Son of the Devil!”
3. Turning/Twisting the “straight paths of the Lord”

NOTE: Following Christ puts us on a collision course with the forces of darkness. You are called into combat!! But even there, we find contentment.

III. SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY

A. Full of the Spirit!

- Contrast Elymas: *full of deceit* (full of himself?)

B. Full of Power! Real power and authority! Power of the Spirit!

1. Blindness – mist and darkness
2. Sight? - Clarity and Light? (Isaiah 42:19)

C. Full of the Word of God!

1. Proconsul *believed the Word!*
2. The Word of Power
 - False Prophet: Seeks to bend his surroundings to his will by the power of his words.
 - God bends our wills to His by the power of His Word.

IV. Conclusion & Application

A. A Question: Did Barnabas & Saul really want to leave Antioch?

- I *have* learned: When he sends me somewhere it is for my good.
- Have I *learned to say*: If you choose to disrupt my plans, I will follow yours joyfully.

B. A Warning!

- Magic and *spiritual challenges* to the uniqueness of Christ are still alive and well in this culture!
- He is not “one among equals”. There is no other name under heaven by which you must be saved. Elymas did not understand or believe this. A pagan Proconsul of Rome *did*. Do You???

C. A Challenge - To *rest & speak* in the Power of the Spirit.

- The Word is the word of eternal life, of wisdom of God, and power of God!
- You are called to live and speak in the power of the Spirit – of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let our worship of the King drive us to faithful service before Him.