**ASSIGNMENT FOR CLASS #8: St. Paul’s First Missionary Journey to Cyprus & Asia Minor**(ACTS 13:1-14:28)

**SESSION #1: Paul & Barnabas in Antioch, Sermon 1 (Acts 13:1-43)**

* Note that in 13:1 the reference to “prophets and teachers” isn’t just about “jobs” but about charismatic gifts (see 1 Cor 12:28). What do you think your charismatic gifts are?
* Notice also that the Holy Spirit spoke while they were fasting (13:2). Have you ever wondered why you aren’t hearing the Holy Spirit’s voice more clearly? Maybe some sort of fast is in order?
* Here we see another conflict between apostles and a magician or false teacher – Bar-Jesus. Who are the magicians and false teachers seeking to lead you and your family astray?
* Note that starting with 13:17, St. Paul, just like St. Peter in the chapters before him, connects Jesus directly with the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. Why do you think this is so important to the spirituality of the early Christians? How important is it to your spirituality?
* What is the main point of this sermon?

**SESSION #2: Paul & Barnabas in Antioch, Sermon 2 (Acts 13:44-52)**

* Which vice ruined the preaching of Paul for the people? In other words, what *went wrong*? Why? Have we seen similar situations in our own lives?
* The result of the preaching of Paul and Barnabas is mixed. How does it turn out? Are we able to be “filled with joy with the Holy Spirit” (13:52) despite mixed blessings?

**SESSION #3: Paul & Barnabas in Iconium (Acts 14:1-7)**

* How does this passage relate to *what went wrong* in the previous section? What does this passage tell us about what to expect when we preach the gospel with our words and actions?

**SESSION #4: Paul & Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe (Acts 14:8-23)**

* Paul is quick to note that “God did not leave himself without a witness” (14:17) even before Jesus came. That “witness” is the goodness and beauty of creation itself, which points to the handiwork of a Creator. How is it do you think that our minds can become so darkened that we cannot see that a piece of *artwork* (like creation and nature) testifies to an *artist*?
* St. Paul returns to Lystra even after he is stoned “exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God (14:22).” What is the state of our soul when tribulations come to test our faith? Does it shake our faith? Can we draw strength from the fact that the Apostles have told us that such tribulations will come?