

PAUL'S FIRST MIRACLE

Acts 13: 6-12



Outline

- INTRODUCTION
- BACKGROUND OF THE MIRACLE
- EXPLANATION OF THE MIRACLE
- APPLICATION OF THE MIRACLE
- CONCLUSION
- INVITATION

Introduction

- What was a miracle? Works of supernatural origin that cannot be produced by natural agents. (W.E. Vines)
- Miracles happened immediately.
- *Miracles have ceased.* 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

Background

- During his 1st Missionary journey, Paul/Barnabas sailed for Cyprus then journeyed to Paphos (western end).
- The group encountered a false prophet, a Jew named Bar-Jesus called Elymas (Aramaic-sorcerer). Witchcraft was forbidden. **Leviticus 19:31; Deuteronomy 18:10-12**
- It was not unfamiliar for those in charge to seek advice from such people. (Pharoah- **Exodus 7:11;** Nebuchadnezzar- **Daniel 4:7**)

Explanation of the miracle

V.6 At Paphos, Paul met Bar-jesus (son of salvation; wise man), a Jew who professed to have divine inspiration. He was a false prophet.

Revelation 18:23 “deceive all nations”

V.7 Sergius Paulus, governor/former senator, was a prudent/intelligent man. He heard of the missionaries' work and desired (sought) to hear their word (gospel).

Explanation of the miracle

V.8 Elymas withstood (opposed) Paul and tried to stop God's word. He wanted S. Paulus to remain dependent upon his "services."

V.9-11 Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, acted:

- (1) set his eyes upon him (looked intently),
- (2) rebuked Elymas, and
- (3) called God and pronounced judgment.

Explanation of the miracle

V. 10 Paul rebukes Elymas:

- (1) “full of all subtlety” (**Genesis 3:1**)
- (2) “full of all mischief” (fraud) (**Proverbs 6:17-18**)
- (3) “child of devil” (**John 8:44**)
- (4) “enemy of all righteousness” (**Romans 5:10**)
- (5) “perverter of right ways” (**Isaiah 42:16**)

Explanation of the miracle

V.11 Elymas was temporarily blinded (**Judges 2:14-15; Romans 11:11-13**)

- ❖ This blinding was immediate (**2 Kings 6:18**).
- ❖ This blinding showed God's compassion.

V.12 Sergius Paulus saw the hand of lord in action, was astonished, and believed.

- ❖ Belief means “accepted;” *synecdoche* implies his **conversion (John 3:16)**.

Application of the miracle

*God accomplished (es) his will through men.

Philippians 2:13

*We must be useful. **Luke 12:35-38; 1 Corinthians 16:13**

*We must be useable. **Acts 20:35**

*Many in the world are “grasping” for the gospel.

Colossians 4:3; 2 Timothy 4:5

Conclusion

Elymas learned a lesson.

Sergius Paulus learned a lesson.

Have we learned ours?

****Does God “inconvenience” us?*****

Invitation

Lost

HEAR Romans 10:17

BELIEVE John 3:16

REPENT Luke 13:3

CONFESS Romans 10:10

BE BAPTIZED Acts 2:38

Fallen

ACTS 8:22-24 JOHN 1:9

REPENT

CONFESS SINS TO GOD

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS