

Acts 13:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

Analysis

They preached the word of God in the synagogues (κατήγγελλον τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς, katēngellon ton logon tou theou en tais synagōgais)—Paul's missionary strategy consistently began with synagogues, fulfilling 'to the Jew first' (Romans 1:16). Salamis, Cyprus's eastern port, had a substantial Jewish population. The verb κατήγγελλον (katēngellon, 'proclaim publicly') emphasizes authoritative proclamation, not dialogue.

They had also John to their minister (εἶχον δὲ καὶ Ἰωάννην ὑπηρέτην, eichon de kai Iōannēn hypēretēn)—John Mark served as ὑπηρέτην (hypēretēn, 'attendant/assistant'), likely handling logistics, teaching arrangements, and possibly keeping records (the source for his Gospel?). His premature departure (v. 13) would cause Paul-Barnabas conflict (15:36-40).

Historical Context

Salamis was Cyprus's commercial capital with multiple synagogues indicating a large Jewish community. The missionary team followed trade routes, using synagogues as established platforms for proclamation. John Mark was cousin to Barnabas (Colossians 4:10), explaining Barnabas's later defense of him.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's 'to the Jew first' strategy inform contemporary missions methodology and gospel presentation?
2. What role do 'assistants' like John Mark play in ministry, and how should their failures be handled with grace?

Interlinear Text

καὶ γενόμενοι ἐν Σαλαμῖνι κατήγγελλον τὸν λόγον
And when they were at Salamis they preached the word
G2532 G1096 G1722 G4529 G2605 G3588 G3056

τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς τῶν Ἰουδαίων εἶχον
of God at the synagogues of the Jews they had
G3588 G2316 G3588 G4864 G3588 G2453 G2192

δὲ καὶ Ἰωάννην ὑπηρέτην
and And John to their minister
G1161 G2532 G2491 G5257

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:14 (Parallel theme): But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.

Acts 13:46 (Word): Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Acts 18:4 (Parallel theme): And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

Acts 9:20 (References God): And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

Acts 19:8 (References God): And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

Acts 12:12 (References John): And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Acts 17:17 (Parallel theme): Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.

Acts 14:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.