

Redemption - Acts 13:13-52

Into the Lesson:

Thinking back to a time when the price of gas was not astronomical, reflect on the most memorable road trip you ever went on.

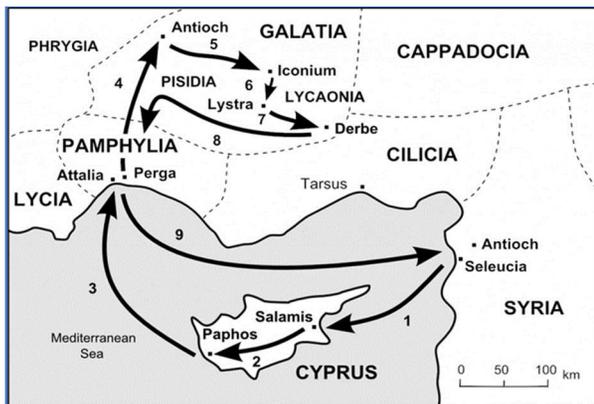
Was it memorable good, or bad? What made it so memorable?

Did you have any conflicts with the people you were traveling with?

(Conflicts with friends would include arguments, with siblings it could include bloodletting.)

Did you hear the words (or did you speak them), "don't make me come back there" or 'Ill turn this car around"?

During the trip did you get stuck in one of those miles long road construction detours?



Into the Word:

As this first missionary journey continues (stops 3,4&5) it becomes evident that it is not without conflict and detours.

Reflect on Lane's comments about the transformation in the lives of Peter and Paul.

We can't know the reason for John's decision to return to Jerusalem, but without a doubt it caused conflict (15:37-38).

What must it have been like for the others travelling with Paul and Barnabas to see this encounter?

How similar was Paul's Old Testament overview to the one that Peter gave in 2:14-29 and the response by certain of the Jewish leaders (4:2-3; 13:50)?

What of the response for the "rest of us" in vv.48-49?

Into Life:

Respond to Lane's statement "...how much this entire process is in God's hands and how His plans will never be thwarted."

How does this realization encourage you?

Should the prospect of opposition and even persecution deter us from our mission?

What does it mean to you that even among believers there may be conflict?

How can we overcome conflict and still realize growth and positive outreach in the community?

How much more effective can we be without conflict?

What are some ways we can make our message (both as a group and individually) more understandable to those who may not have a background in things of God?

How important is the redemption story we must share to a world desperately in need of it?

What can we do to get that story out?

**...lives that will trust the power of Jesus
can and will be changed...**