

Reporter 1: I heard that you are called “the first missionaries.” How did you know what you had to do?

Paul: Actually, we didn’t know exactly what we were going to do. We just trusted and followed the mandate of the Holy Spirit.

Barnabas: When we went to a new city, we proclaimed the gospel in their synagogues. We told people that Jesus was the Messiah, the Savior of the world! Only he can forgive their sins and restore their lives.

Reporter 2: How did the people respond?

Paul (to Barnabas): Barnabas, do we talk about Elymas and Sergius Paulus?

Barnabas: Sure.

Paul: We traveled across the island of Cyprus until we came to Paphos. The Roman governor Sergius Paulus lived there. He was an intelligent man because he wanted to hear the gospel message. I told him I was no longer Saul but Paul.

Barnabas: There we also met Elymas, the magician. He didn’t want Sergius Paulus to listen to us, and tried to turn him from the faith. He didn’t like what we had to say.

Reporter 2: What did you do?

Barnabas: The Holy Spirit gave Paul courage. He looked directly at Elymas and said, “*You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that*

is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun.”

Reporter 1: What a dreadful rebuke! What happened next?

Paul: Darkness fell upon him immediately and he went around looking for someone to lead him by the hand.

Reporter 2: Unbelievable!

Barnabas: Amazing! It is not very wise to fight against the Holy Spirit

Paul: That gave us the opportunity to teach Sergius Paulus about Jesus.

Reporter 1: What did the Governor think of all this?

Barnabas: “*When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.*”

Reporter 2: Imagine! The Roman Governor became a believer!

Reporter 1: What an exciting experience you had on your first missionary trip! I’m sure you have a lot more that you could tell us.

Paul and Barnabas: We sure do. But let’s save that for another time. Thank you for allowing us to testify to you about what God did on our first missionary trip.



WHAT KIND OF A WITNESS ARE YOU?

Maybe you will never become a missionary like Paul and Barnabas, but you will always be a witness for Christ. People observe how you react when they oppose your faith. Read the following responses and tell in which situations a Christian could react this way.

Anger: Do you react violently when someone attacks you for what you believe?

Denial: Do you pretend, for the moment, NOT to be a Christian?

Courage: With a lot of courage, do you tell others that you love Jesus?