

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 13 1-12



And they shall know that you, whose name is the Lord,
are alone Most High over all the earth.
Psalm 81:18

Praising:

Let darkness turn to radiant light,
confusion vanish from your path;
those who are weak inspire with
might:
let mercy triumph over wrath.

Reading:

Acts 13:1-12
Barnabas and Saul in Cyprus

The Church at Antioch now has leaders in place, and by his Spirit God prompts these leaders to set Barnabas and Saul off to continue their work of proclamation elsewhere. They are commissioned in the now familiar apostolic way with the laying on of hands and prayer. Their ministry in Cyprus begins in the Jewish synagogues, but their encounter with the magician is the climax. The conversion of Sergius Paulus is the real

breakthrough of their time in Cyprus. All the more so, because they had to persevere with their work throughout the island before the reward of the influential Roman pro-consul finally came. In these deeply superstitious times, Bar-Jesus/Elymas is the spiritual barrier standing between the pro-consul and the truth. The greater power of the living Lord must therefore be proved. When it is, Bar-Jesus is finished.

Listening:

Praying:

In a world that's still full of half-truth and superstition, Lord we pray

- for those in authority, that for wisdom, insight and guidance they may look first to you
- for release for those obsessed with luck, charms, fortunetelling and 'old wives' tales'
- for confidence in the name of Jesus over every false power and would-be rival

Father: show me gentle ways to point people away from a sea of superstitious spirituality, and towards instead the solid ground of your divine reality, for you are way, truth and life. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 20 May 2016