

When the world turned upside down — Week #17 Acts 13:1-14:27  
More than Meets the Eye

當世界顛倒過來時 第17週：使徒行傳13：1-14：27  
不僅是所見的

When we read about the people living during the time this was written, we are reading about people who were navigating similar complexities as we are experiencing now. 当我们阅读本文(使徒行传)时，我們得知當時的人的生活的复杂性與我們現在所經歷的很相似。

- Life wasn't simple. 生活并不简单。
- Life was complex. 生活很复杂。
- And substance was hard to find. 生命的实质難尋。

And then there's the birth of the church. 然后是教會的產生。

- And there's life. 生命來了。
- And there's meaning. 意义來了。
- And there's substance. 实质來了。

One of the things you'll notice as you read the book of Acts is that people are in Awe. 阅读《使徒行传》时，您会注意到的一件事是人们的敬畏

- Over and over again, the book of Acts describes people as being amazed, or being awe struck, by what was happening. 使徒行传一遍又一遍地描述人们对发生的事情感到惊讶或敬畏
- There was awe because of the power of God was moving among them in a way they'd never seen before. 之所以敬畏，是因为上帝的大能以前所未有的方式在他们中间工作。
- The promise that Jesus made that his Holy Spirit would be given, and that there would be power, had been fulfilled. 耶穌應許了他的聖靈將被賜予，並擁有大能的諾言已經實現。

There's this deep sense of WONDER that they are encountering. 他們遇到的就是這種奇妙的神蹟

- Their physical circumstances? They hadn't really changed. 他們的身體狀況？他們並沒有改變。
- Their economic status? Still the same. 他們的經濟狀況還是一樣。
- They're living in the same houses, doing the same jobs, living among the same friends. 他們住在相同的房子裡，從事相同的工作，在相同的朋友中生活。
- These people were discovering substance, and yet most of what WE call substance in our day, hadn't really changed. 這些人正在發現實質，但是我們今天所說的大多數的實質並沒有真正改變。

- It might be revealing that there are dimensions of experience that we haven't encountered, or aren't paying attention to. And amidst those dimensions, we find substance. 有些經驗是我們從未遇到過的，或者我們從未關注的。但在與神相遇中，我們會發現實質。

Everything we see is not everything that is. 我們所看到事物的並非是事物的本質。

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

使徒行傳 13 1 在安提阿的教會中，有幾位先知和教師，就是巴拿巴和稱為尼結的西面、古利奈人路求，與希律分封王一起長大的馬念，和掃羅。

- Luke's inclusion of these names is an intentional decision to reveal the diversity of the church at Antioch. 路加加入這些人名是一個有義意的，旨在揭示安提阿教堂的多樣性。
  - Both ethnic, and economic diversity. 種族和經濟多樣性。
  - The church of Antioch was multicultural and was the first place that the followers of Jesus were called Christians. 安提阿教會有多元文化本質，並且是耶穌信徒被稱為基督徒的起源。
  - They weren't defined by their economics or ethnicity, but by the transforming power of the grace of God. 基督徒的定義不是根據他們的經濟或種族來定義的，而是根據上帝轉化的大能的恩典來定義的。

Acts 13:2-3 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

使徒行傳 13 2 他們在事奉主和禁食的時候，聖靈說：「要為我分派巴拿巴和掃羅去做我召他們做的工作。」 3 於是他們禁食禱告後，給巴拿巴和掃羅按手，然後派遣他們走了。

There are two life-transforming realities in these two very simple verses. 在這兩節非常簡單的經文中，有兩種轉化人生的實際。

- They were worshiping and fasting. 他們在敬拜和禁食。
  - Worship in song is a revealing practice. 歌唱敬拜是得著啟示的一種操練。
  - It's a foreign concept because we've come to believe that everything we see is everything that is. 這是一個陌生概念，因為我們已經相信，我們所看到的一切就是真實。
  - Worship is engagement with the unseen. In worship we acknowledge a God that can't be seen. These people are living in that reality. 敬拜是沈浸在所不能見的裡面。在敬拜中，我們認定那看不見的神。這些人生活在敬拜的實際當中。
- And, they are fasting. 而且，他們在禁食。

- There's lots of reasons we fast, but one reason is to subdue our physical appetites and physical needs to become aware of unseen spiritual realities. 我們禁食的原因很多，但其中一個原因是要克服我們的食慾和身體需要，使我們能體驗眼睛看不見的屬靈實際。
- We see people who are actively engaged in a reality that is unseen because they are convinced that the physical is not all that there is. 我們看到人們積極參與一個眼睛看不見的實際，因為他們堅信眼見物質並不是一切。
- They are engaged in realities beyond what they can touch or see. God speaks to them through his Spirit. 他們沈浸在所不能觸摸或看到的領域，上帝藉著祂的靈對他們說話。

Could it be that our frustration with God's lack of direction in our lives is the bi-product in our lack of engagement in anything other than the physical realm? 我們對上帝在我們的生活中缺乏指引的沮喪是否是因我們缺乏對物質領域以外事物的參與呢？

- Our insistence on physical responses often means we miss hearing his still small voice. 我們堅持要有實質的回應使得我們錯過了聽到祂沈穩但微小的聲音。
- If you wanted to strip the power from the church, I believe the best way to accomplish that would be to over-intellectualize Jesus and distract us from the unseen aspect of what it means to be a Christian. 如果您想除滅教會的能力，我相信實現這一目標的最佳方法是極力地使耶穌知識化，並分散我們對做為基督徒眼睛所看不見的意義的注意力。

They don't go to God with their plans. They go to God seeking HIS plans. 他們帶著自己的計劃去找上帝，他們去尋求上帝的計劃。

- They come to God asking him to show them HIS ways. •他們來到上帝面前，請祂向他們顯示祂的道路。
- They seek God, and HIS direction. 他們尋求上帝和他的指示
- They are aware of HIS leading. 他們知道祂帶領的地位。
- And then, when he leads, they follow. 當祂帶領時，他們跟隨。
- So God speaks to them. It's send Paul and Barnabas to places they've never been, and have them tell people about Jesus. 然後上帝對他們說話，就是將保羅和巴拿巴送往他們從未去過的地方，並讓他們向人們介紹耶穌。

I long for us to be a church that seeks God for lives that are bigger than our own imaginations. That we would allow God to place things in our hearts that are bigger than what we could have come up with. 我渴望我們成為一個教會，就是尋求那比自己思維的生命更大的生命。願我們允許上帝將比我們能想到的更大的事情放在我們心中。

Acts 13:4-12

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them. 6 When they had gone through the whole island as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain magician, a Jewish false prophet

named Bar-Jesus. 7 He was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, a man of intelligence, who summoned Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, “You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time.” Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand. 12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

使徒行傳 13：4 - 12 在塞浦路斯傳道

4他們既蒙聖靈差遣，就下到西流基，從那裏坐船往塞浦路斯去，5到了撒拉米，就在猶太人各會堂裏宣講神的道，也有約翰作他們的幫手。6他們走遍全島，直到帕弗，在那裏遇見一個術士—猶太人的假先知，名叫巴耶穌。7這人常和士求·保羅省長在一起。士求·保羅是個通達人，他請巴拿巴和掃羅來，要聽神的道。8只是術士以呂馬(他的名字翻出來就是行法術的意思)敵對使徒，設法使省長遠離這信仰。9掃羅，又名保羅，被聖靈充滿，定睛看他，10說：「你這充滿各樣詭詐奸惡，魔鬼的兒子，一切正義的仇敵，你還不停止扭曲主的正道嗎？11現在你看，主的手臨到你身上，你會瞎眼，暫時看不見日光。」立刻迷濛和黑暗籠罩著他，他到處摸索，求人拉著手領他。12省長看見所發生的事就信了，因對主的教導感到驚奇。

Do you realize that Satan, or the enemy, is mentioned over 250 times in the NT? As an average, for example, in the New Testament alone, “the enemy” would be mentioned one time in every chapter.

您是否注意識到“撒旦或敵人”在新約中被提到超過250次？平均而言，僅僅在新約聖經中，每章都會提到“敵人”一次。

Ephesians 6:10-12 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

以弗所書 6：10-12 與邪惡爭戰

我還有末了的話：你們要靠著主，倚賴他的大能大力作剛強的人。11要穿戴神所賜的全副軍裝，就能抵擋魔鬼的詭計。12因我們並不是與屬血氣的爭戰，乃是與那些執政的、掌權的、管轄這幽暗世界的，以及天空屬靈氣的惡魔爭戰。

Acts 26:17-18: “I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

使徒行傳 26:17-18

17我也要救你脫離百姓和外邦人的手。我差你到他們那裏去，18要開他們的眼睛，使他們從黑暗中轉向光明，從撒但權下歸向神；使他們因信我而得蒙赦罪，和一切成聖的人同得基業。』』

- Make no mistake there is a cosmic battle going on, that is not with people. 毫無疑問，一場不是與人打交道的宇宙之戰正在進行
- Although it’s difficult for some in our modern culture to comprehend or understand, it is still a true fact. We are engaged in a tension between two kingdoms. May sound

mystical and cosmic and surreal. Maybe challenging to our sophisticated sensibilities. 儘管我們現代文化中的某些人難以理解或了解，但這確是真實。我們正在兩個王國之間陷入緊張局勢。聽起來像是神秘的，宇宙的和超現實的。可能會挑戰我們複雜的靈敏度。

- Our culture today, would love to tell you that every bad thing that happens has a cause that can be located and identified in someone's past. 我們今天的文化很想告訴您，發生的每件壞事都有其原因可以在某人的過去中找到並確定。
- Everything is cause and effect. 一切都是因果。
- What we see today is simply the byproduct of something that happened yesterday. 我們今天看到的僅僅是昨天發生的事情的副產品。

Which is WHY we are convinced if we change all of the system... If we change people's experiences, if we make everything just right, then bad things won't happen. 這就是為什麼我們確信如果我們更改所有系統的原因...如果我們改變人們的經驗，如果一切都正確，那麼壞事就不會發生。

“There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased with both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight.” —C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*

對於惡魔，我們的種族可能會陷入兩種相當而又相反的錯誤之中。一種是不相信惡魔的存在。另一個是要相信惡魔，並對他們過度地強調到不健康的地步。他們自己對這兩個錯誤感到同樣地高興，並以同樣的喜悅為唯物主義者或魔術師歡呼。— C.S. 劉易斯 (Lewis)，《螺絲帶信》，第47頁。ix。

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聖經告訴我們，人類的不服從導致了罪惡。但是天使的不服從導致了世界上的邪惡。-蘭迪·雷明頓

The Lords prayer distinguishes between the two. 主禱文將兩者區分開。

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

馬太福音 6:9-13 9我們在天上的父：願人都尊你的名為聖。10願你的國降臨；願你的旨意行在地上，如同行在天上。11我們日用的飲食，今日賜給我們。12免我們的債，如同我們免了人的債。13不叫我們遇見試探；救我們脫離凶惡。

Jesus makes a distinction between the sins we are being forgiven OF, and the Evil we are being delivered FROM. 耶穌在我們被赦免的罪與我們從凶惡中被釋放之間做出了區分。

Acts 13:10 ...will you no cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?”

使徒行傳 13:10 ... 你還不停止扭曲主的正道嗎？

The Devil is a divider; he brings division wherever he can. 魔鬼是分裂者。他會盡一切可能帶來分裂。

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- US FROM GOD 將我們與上帝分開

- US FROM OURSELVES 將我們與我們自己分開
- US FROM THE CHURCH (FELLOW BELIEVERS) 將我們與教會分開（同信徒）
- If you' re Married, YOUR SPOUSE. 如果您已婚，將您與您的配偶分開。

The Devil is not really creative, he is more like a parasite that will attach himself to our selfishness, pettiness and bring division. But he' s real. 魔鬼並不是真正有創造力，他更像是一個寄生蟲，將使黏覆在我們的自私，自憐並帶來分裂。他是真實的。

There are unseen realities that can be ignored, but they can' t be denied. 有一些看不見的真实可以忽略，但不能被否認。

- And ignoring the full-spectrum of reality will result in a life that is desperately seeking substance in a substance less reality. 忽視全備的實際將導致一種生活型態，就是無可救藥地在沒有實際的現實中尋求實際。
- If all we have, if all that 'is' , is what we can see and touch and taste, well, then OF course we' ll be desperate. But if there is more, and certainly there is, then it explains how you and I can have relative peace in complicated, trying, times. 如果我們擁有的一切僅僅是世界所認知的那種一切，就是僅是我們可以看到，摸到和嚐到的，那麼，我們當然會絕望的。但是，如果不僅是這樣（當然不僅是這樣），那麼您和我如何複雜艱難的時還能持有相當的平安就有了解答。

Benediction 祝禱

- May your eyes be opened... 願你睜開你的靈眼睛...
- May you live a life of substance... 願您過上充實的生活...
- May you hear, and obey, and have dreams larger than your imagination. 願您聽到，服從並擁有比想像中更大的夢想