Sunday – July 05, 2026

The Lakeland Hills Leader

Lakeland Hills Blvd church of Christ
2510 Lakeland Hills Blvd
Lakeland, FL 33805
(863) 688-4336

Schedule of Services
Sunday
9:00 AM Bible Study
9:50 AM Worship
5:00 PM Worship

Wednesday
7:00 PM Bible Study

Visit our Website:
www..lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com
For Sermon & Class outlines, Bible Study Materials and Other Information.

Visit our Facebook Page:
www..facebook.com/Lakeland Hillschurchofchrist for events, information, and links to our YouTube Archives

Visit us on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/channel/UCu7AG_3jUtpBDIr2NPqB3iw for Live Streams and Video Archives.

Elders
Bob Marschall
Leon Miller
Larry Wisdom

Deacons
Bucky Day
Sherman Johnson
Michael Sadler
David Williams

Evangelist
Kent Heaton

When Blindness Opened The Eyes

By Kent Heaton

Now when they had gone through the island to Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew whose name was Bar-Jesus, who was with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, an intelligent man. This man called for Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the word of God. But Elymas the sorcerer (for so his name is translated) withstood them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord? And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time." And immediately a dark mist fell on him, and he went around seeking someone to lead him by the hand. Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord. (Acts 13:6-12)

A proconsul was a man of authority in the Roman government, governing a senatorial province. He answered to Rome, wielding great power over the citizens of the territory. When Paul and Barnabas began their first missionary journey, they traveled to Barnabas's homeland, where they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. Arriving in the city of Paphos, the capital of the island of Cyprus. Paphos was the residence of the Roman governor, Sergius Paulus. Upon hearing of Barnabas and Paul, the proconsul called for them to come and share the word of God with him. Accompanying Sergius Paulus was a sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew named Bar-Jesus (also known as Elymas).

When Sergius Paulus invited Barnabas and Paul to share the message of Jesus with him, Elymas interfered, urging the governor to pay no attention to what Barnabas and Saul said. He withstood the preachers seeking to deflect what they were teaching, and Sergius Paulus believed in Jesus Christ. It is clear that the sorcerer knew if the proconsul believed in Christ, his work as a sorcerer would come to an end. He was trying to keep the governor from believing in Jesus Christ. The actions of Elymas angered Paul. Filled with the Holy Spirit, the apostle denounced the actions of the false prophet, declaring his words were the works of Satan, being filled with unrighteousness and perverting the straight ways of the Lord.

Paul pronounced a curse on Elymas, appealing to the Holy Spirit to blind the false prophet for a time. Immediately, a dark mist fell on Elymas, and he stumbled around trying to find someone to guide him. Luke does not tell how long the blindness lasted, but it had a lasting impression upon the Gentile proconsul. When Sergius Paulus saw what Paul did and the evidence of the miracle of instant blinding of the false prophet, he believed. Paul's preaching, confirmed by the miracle against Elymas, pierced the proconsul's heart and brought about obedience to the gospel of Christ. Elymas's blindness led to the eyes of Sergius Paulus being opened.

Jesus told the eleven to preach the gospel and use miracles to confirm the word. Miracles have ceased, but the power of the gospel to change lives has not. The blindness of one man led to the enlightenment of another. Preaching the whole

counsel of God declares the goodness and severity of God. The righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel, and so is the wrath of God. They both serve the purpose of the other to explain the nature of God. Blinding Elymas was the power of God's wrath upon unrighteousness. The heart of Sergius Paulus was moved to see the power of God, and he believed. Throughout scripture, God shows his love and kindness toward those who repent and obey. His wrath is against those who refuse.

An old proverb declares that the scriptures are given to comfort the afflicted, but it is also written to afflict the comfortable. Sergius Paulus became a believer after witnessing the power of God. That same response must come to the hearts of all men to see how much God loves them and to understand the lengths God took to save the world – His only begotten Son. The violence of the death of Jesus should move men to believe He is the Son of God and repent. When men see the horror of sin, open hearts will respond with a desire to believe and serve the Lord. Sergius Paulus believed when he saw what had been done. He was astonished at the teaching of the Lord. Open your eyes to the glory of a loving Father who gave His son to save you.