



Sermon Discussion Questions

June 9, 2024

Antioch: A Church On Mission

THE FIRST MISSIONARY SENDING CHURCH

Acts 13:1-3

1. **Opening Discussion Questions** (in a group setting you may only want to do one)
 - a. What has been your most significant intercultural experience? Perhaps it is as simple as enjoying another culture's food at an ethnic restaurant or maybe as complex as living for years in a foreign country. Describe what you learned and how the experience influenced your life.
 - b. Describe a time when you were unexpectedly required to do something that forced you to change your plans. How did you feel and react? Did it turn out to be a good experience or was it undesirable to the end?
2. **Sermon Outline/Key Points**
 - a. The Antioch Church Sent Out Missionaries with Huge Kingdom Impact
 - i. The Antioch church was deeply aligned with God's will.
 - ii. The Gospel spread in Cyprus and Turkey
 - b. Sending Missionaries Obeys God and Fulfills His Will for the Nations
 - i. Churches should send cross-cultural missionaries when there aren't enough witnesses within a culture to reach everyone.
 - ii. Do we need to send and support sending cross-cultural missionaries today?
 - c. Antioch Shows Us How to Become a Stronger Missionary Sending Church
 - i. We must be praying and fasting to align ourselves to God's will.
 - ii. We must be teaching and equipping everyone to make disciples.
 - iii. We must be sending out evangelists and missionaries in the power of the Holy Spirit
3. **Study/Discussion Points:**
 - a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
 - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?

- v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. ***Monday – The Antioch Church Sent Out Missionaries with Huge Kingdom Impact.***
 - i. Begin this week’s study by reading Acts 13 at least twice using different translations if possible.
 - 1. If you were going to outline this chapter what would be the three to six major points you would choose for the top level?
 - 2. Use a Bible atlas or maps in your Bible to locate the various locations mentioned. Note the approximate distances between cities.
 - ii. The Pastor’s sermon outline says that the missionaries made a “huge Kingdom impact.” What verses validate that statement?
 - iii. The Holy Spirit is mentioned repeatedly in this chapter.
 - 1. What are the various ways that He is shown working?
 - 2. How does this chapter show the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise in Acts 1:8?
- c. ***Tuesday – The Antioch Church Sent Out Missionaries with Huge Kingdom Impact.***
 - i. Before getting to the focal passage review the history and activity of the Antioch church in Acts 11:19-30. Then read and meditate on Acts 12:25-13:3.
 - 1. Based on the background verses how would you describe the church in Antioch up to the start of chapter 13? Other than sharing the gospel in their community what was their major focus?
 - 2. What details most stood out to you from the focal passage?
 - ii. Verse 1 tells us that the church in Antioch was blessed with prophets and teachers and then names five men. Before considering these five men read these verses and discuss what they tell us about the role of people with the gifts of prophecy and teaching: Romans 12:6-7, 1 Corinthians 12:27-29 and 13:8-10, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:10-11.
 - 1. Why would prophecy (a divine message provided by the Holy Spirit through an individual) have been very important to the Antioch church but no longer needed in our churches? What takes its place?
 - 2. Assuming that Luke meant that the five men whose names follow the statement that there were prophets and teachers had those gifts what do 1 Timothy 3:2 and 5:17 suggest their position in the church might have been?
- d. ***Wednesday – The Antioch Church Sent Out Missionaries with Huge Kingdom Impact.***
 - i. Reread the focal passage, Acts 13:1-3.

1. Focus on the five men named in verse 1.
 - a. Where does Acts 4:35 tell us Barnabas was originally from?
 - b. Although Simeon is a Jewish name what does his Latin nickname (Black or Dark-skinned) suggest about his origin?
 - c. Where did Lucius come from (find Cyrene on a map)?
 - d. What does the additional information about Manaen suggest about his social status compared to the other four men?
 - e. What do we know about Saul's education and background that makes him unique in the group?
 2. Taken collectively, what adjectives would you use to describe this leadership team?
 3. Jesus gave the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8, to the Apostles, who are still apparently in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1). What seems to have made this group of believers more suited to going to all nations?
 - ii. A considerable time has passed since the church was founded in Antioch (Barnabas was originally sent to investigate, then got Paul and taught for a year, and then took an offering to Jerusalem and returned). What changed to make them a missionary-sending church? Who set the time for that to happen? What lesson should we learn about when it is the right time to perform a ministry for the Lord?
- e. **Thursday** – *Sending Missionaries Obeys God and Fulfills His Will for the Nations.*
- i. Read and compare these passages with the focal passage: Acts 8:29-30, 10:19-23, and 11:12-14. What do all have in common? What was the objective/result of the Holy Spirit's commands? In what way is Acts 9:10-17 similar? Different?
 - ii. What did the church do after the Holy Spirit told them to set apart Barnabas and Saul?
 1. Why would additional prayer and fasting have been appropriate given what is taught in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 and 1 John 4:1?
 2. Given their role in establishing and teaching the church in Antioch how do you think the congregation would have felt about sending off these two men? What lesson should we learn from this example? How would God's requirements for the Israelites' sacrifices and offerings have set the stage for requiring that the best leaders would be the ones called to be missionaries?
- f. **Friday** – *Sending Missionaries Obeys God and Fulfills His Will for the Nations.*
- i. Read Galatians 1:15-16, Romans 1:1, and Acts 13:2. What three important events in Paul's life are associated with being "set apart"?

1. Although Paul knew that being a missionary to the Gentiles was his “calling” (see Acts 9:15 and 22:2) why would he have waited until this point to make his first missionary journey? What was guiding him?
2. Where else do we see Paul’s yielding to such direction exhibited in his life (see Acts 16:6-7, Acts 18:9-11, Acts 20:22)?
- ii. What is the significance of the church members “laying hands” on Barnabas and Saul in Acts 13:3? What do these Old Testament passages suggest about the significance of the practice: Genesis 48:14, Leviticus 1:4, and Numbers 27:23? What would the laying on of hands have signified to the church itself?
- iii. Reread Acts 13:4-15 and 42-52 describing the initial stops on Paul’s First Missionary Journey.
 1. What led them first to Cyprus? Why would this have been a logical starting point?
 2. According to what we are told what were the results at each stop? How did Paul deal with the opposition they encountered?
- g. *Saturday – Antioch Shows Us How to Become a Stronger Missionary Sending Church.*
 - i. What was the Antioch church doing when the Holy Spirit instructed them to set apart Barnabas and Saul? When you read verse two is there anything to suggest that this was a special/unique event, or does it seem more like their normal routine? In which case do you think God would be more likely to provide such direction?
 - ii. What sense of urgency do you see in the way the church responded? What might account for their openness to God’s leading?
 - iii. How, if at all, would LRBC need to change to be like the Antioch church?
4. **Application:** The emphasis of Acts 13:1-3 is on how the church responded to the Holy Spirit’s direction but certainly there must also have been an individual response from Barnabas and Paul. Spend much of your quiet time this week thinking about how you would respond to such a command and praying that God would open your heart to be willing to do/go whatever He asks of you.

5. Prayer Points:

- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. Supplications –Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19