

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 27: Godly Discontent

READ Acts 13:1-12 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Would you believe a prayer meeting could change the course of human history? That is what happened in Acts 13. As the church of Antioch sought the Lord in worship, prayer and fasting, the Holy Spirit authenticated the missionary work of Paul and Barnabas and the church sent them out. This action started the major geographical movement of the gospel throughout the Roman Empire through the proclamation of the word of God.

Big idea: God uses a church that has a healthy discontent to see the glory of God reach the nations with the gospel.

Questions:

1. What activities was the church in Antioch engaged in when the Holy Spirit revealed His will (vv. 1-3)?
2. Regarding the discipline of fasting, Donald Whitney said, “Without a purpose, fasting can be a miserable, self-centered experience about willpower and endurance.” How might fasting be helpful in discerning God’s will or seeking Him for a specific need? (Nehemiah 1; Acts 14:23).
3. **Challenge question:** How did the church at Antioch know Barnabas and Saul were called to cross cultural missions work? How are some ways you can discern when God is calling you to serve? Explain how the following distinctions might be helpful: (1) inner call, (2) outer confirmation, (3) past preparation, (4) current circumstances and (5) supplied resources?

4. In what way was the departure of Barnabas and Saul a costly loss for the church? Consider their previous involvement (11:25-26) and specific gifting.

What type of mindset is needed that sees their departure as ultimately a gain? (see Mark 10:29-31). How might you foster a similar mindset as you consider your involvement at church?

5. What obstacles did Barnabas and Saul encounter when preaching in Cyprus (vv. 4-12)?
6. Why do you suppose Bar-Jesus did not want his friend to hear the truth of the gospel?
7. What did Saul mean by saying to Bar-Jesus, “will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord” (v. 10)? How might this give you confidence as you share the gospel with others?
8. What was it that ultimately caused the proconsul to believe (v. 12)? How important is the Word of God in personal evangelism? Explain with verses.

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God for His power over all opposition that stands in the way of fulfilling His redemptive purposes to mobilize His church and save those who are lost.

Pray: that you may be given grace and confidence to speak the Word to unbelievers.