

**Six weeks encourage Culture of Invitation – Relationship to Christ – Relationship with His church**

Catch the Vision – Culture...difficult to instruct – Seems like some people

Some people this drives them: American muscle: Dodge 426 Hemmi

Others they ride it from time to time: Segway tour take for free because someone invited you

**How would you evaluate your drive to engage people with the gospel? Important God – One Plan**

So glad I got married before the internet surge – Dating apps these days...too many options

I struggle – Restaurants with too many items on the menu – Ooh...Hot Dog

- We live in an age with innumerable options...Work, School, Spouse, Eat, Wear, Vacation...

Which leaves Christians wondering - **What does God want me to do?**

Exist to glorify God through fulfillment of the Great Commission...spirit of Great Commandment

‘Christians’ – Christians Glorify God...How? Winning and influencing people for the kingdom of Christ

You can pick lots of vocations, marry one of the millions, schools a plenty, and restaurants abound

What does God want you to do? **Advance the Kingdom**

- Wherever you are...whatever you’re doing...Advance the Kingdom - Christians are on Mission

**Big Idea – Mission Requires Movement – We’re here today...missional movement | ACTS 13:1-3**

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. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. | **PRAY**

**Context** - Acts 13 - major shift in advancement of the New Testament Church...needed motivation

If Mission Requires Movement – To this point...the mission has been slow going

- Up until now Jerusalem has been the center of ministry and Peter the key Apostle

Acts 1:8 – ‘But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’ **How did they know?**

Jerusalem hesitated in their missional command...that glory will now belong to Antioch

- V-Important...**God isn’t a fan of stagnation...What did God use to motivate them? Persecution!**

Moved them from protect and establish to risk and advance

Jerusalem was the mother church | Antioch was the missional church...And Paul = Key

**If Mission Requires Movement...give you three things Missional Movement Requires**

**Missional Movement Requires:**

**1. Spiritual People Scripturally Driven (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.

**Who they are...what they do...**

- Barnabas – Levite, people responsible to be assistants to priests, from the Island of Cyprus
- Simeon – I could make a case = Same man who carried the cross for Christ at His crucifixion
- Lucius – Roman from Cyrene in North Africa
- Manaen – A close as a brother companion to the Prince, Herod Antipas
- Saul – A Pharisee, Jewish Ruler, from southeast Asia Minor

⇒ **What stands out about this group of men?** Economic and Cultural Diversity | **Almost comical**

○ A Levite, a Roman from Cyrene, a Pharisee, and a court official for Herod walk into a bar

⇒ **What holds them together? Spiritual People Scripturally Driven!**

**Prophets** – Speak for God by preaching the Gospel – Edification and Direction of the Community

**Teachers** – Christians who instruct Christians more about Christ and how to live for and serve Christ.

Well...Pastor Jeremy...I’m not one of these Super Christians you speak of

Manaen? Who’s lifelong friend is Herod Antipas who had JTB Killed | Paul? – Rocks!!!

**What makes them ‘Super’ – Paul = Greatest They were sold out for the God who died for their sins!**

Jesus: Best friends...chopped off cousin’s head! | Jesus: Beat the first Deacon to death with rocks!

Against me...Now...FOLLOW ME! I’ll change your life and give you divine purpose! - Does today!

Why are Spiritual – Scriptural are so driven? Saved from...and for!

They find sinners no better than they are...tell them about the Jesus that set them free!

Are we all prophets? Are we all Teachers? No...All of us can be Spiritual People Scripturally Driven

We’re all called to be spiritual people who are scripturally driven and spiritual people who are scripturally driven influence others – **First thing Missional Movement Requires...second...**

**2. Submitted People Seeking God (2)**

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’

‘The Holy Spirit Said’ – Another evidence of the personality of the Holy Spirit

- Was it audible or intuitive? We don’t know but it is obvious that the message was specific Because of the Holy Spirit’s answer, we can surmise the priority of their worship = Opportunity Set them apart for the work which I have called them...what was that work? Go make Disciples!

**The Holy Spirit directs missional endeavors**

- Worshipping and fasting should not be withheld for spiritually special times **The purpose of fasting should be to withdraw as far as possible from the influence of the world to make yourself more receptive to the commands of Heaven. – William Larkin Jr.**

Fasting is not showing off one’s spirituality, but of drawing closer to God and seeking His guidance. These men were submitting themselves to God and seeking His favor in their evangelistic efforts **One day my kid came to me and said, ‘Dad, can I do my homework, clean my room, pick up the dog stuff, and I’ll re-rock the backyard while I’m out there?’ Of course, I’ll say yes...what I want done!**

- Praying for God to give you opportunities to proclaim the goodness of His Son – Wants done! You want to see prayer answered? Start asking God for Gospel opportunities | **3 People**

- **People who: need Salvation | Restoration | Discipleship** Start with one...Who is your ‘one’? **SEEK = Before you seek them... Seek God...seek them**

Create a Culture of Invitation = Relationship to Christ – Relationship with His Church

Lost People Saved – Saved People Matured – Mature People Multiplied

Worshipping purposefully...fasting intentionally for opportunities | **Missional Movement Requires...**

**3. Steadfast People Sent Intentionally (3)**

Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

Switch gears and talk about those sent from a church body specifically | Less time...Less People

This isn’t ordination but a commissioning – **Easy = commissioned and released**

“Release” of the missionaries from their duties so that they may undertake this other work

- Marked by prayer, fasting and the laying on of hands...steadfast people sent intentionally

**The church must act as a message sending center**

Mobilized churches have a spirit-birthed missions’ strategy that shapes decisions

**You’re part one those churches...We are not just a church plant...We are a church planting church!**

**IMPORTANT:** Blending of personal desire and church commissioning is vital in the ‘setting apart’ of sent pastors and cross-cultural missionaries - Being ‘sent’ isn’t a solo activity

**Deciding you’re a pastor one day has become a thing...but it isn’t a biblical thing**

**This church was on the hearts and minds of Pastors and Elders LONG before I got here**

- Those men trained, equipped, empowered, prayed, laid hands, released me!

What was the Antioch church doing...**Raise em up and Get em out!** Getting them into the fight

- As the opportunities arrive...we will too! Barelax...Nicaragua...Just the start...**Regardless...**

**You are a missionary to one place...Wherever you are!**

Antioch, became a model for the missionary vision and missionary deployment of every church.

- With more than half the world’s population yet to hear the gospel, needs many more Antiochs.

**Dodge 426 Hemmi or free Segway tour of the historical district of a bedroom community**

**How would you evaluate your desire to engage people with the gospel?**

**What does God want me to do?**

⇒ **Catch the Vision - Mission Requires Movement – Who’s your one?!? Pray!**