



May 22, 2022

## MAIN SCRIPTURE: Acts 13:1-3

Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”<sup>[a]</sup>), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas<sup>[b]</sup>), and Saul. <sup>2</sup>One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Appoint Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup>So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

## WARM UP

- What were your general impressions of today’s sermon? What insight, ideas, or inspiration did you receive?
- Now that the weather is warmer and summer is upon us, what summer habits, hobbies, or rhythms are you the most excited to start or continue? Why do you say this?

(Below you will find the main points of this week’s sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

## Thought #1 – They believed in the mission of sharing the gospel!

Verses: Acts 13:1-3

- This passage shows us a picture of diversity – different people from different backgrounds all gathered in the regular rhythm of seeking God and doing what God says. They believed in the mission of sharing the gospel. At this time, the theology of work that they shared involved an “all hands on deck” call to seek God and do what God says. This is a New Testament theology of work, namely that the Great Commission is

everyone’s mission, not just pastors, missionaries, theologians, etc. How does this mesh with your understanding of calling, evangelism, and discipleship? Were you raised in a tradition that stressed missional participation from only the clergy, spiritual elite, and leaders, or did you grow up in a tradition that stressed “all hands on deck” when it comes to evangelism, discipleship, and mission?

- Many of the ideas that we have about sacred work come from ancient Greek thought, not New Testament teaching. Old voices like Aristotle, Aquinas, Plato, etc. led people to believe that there were higher and lower plains of work: The higher worker did sacred work, whereas the lower worker did “everyman’s” work. This gave the impression that one person’s work was more noble or sacred than another’s. Old ideas die hard. Again, this is not what we see in the early church. In your opinion, what effect would it have on Christians who attend our church if they believe that the work they do is not “of God” and that their places of work are not “sacred” places where God’s presence and activity can’t be? Why is it important for people to understand that God calls people into all kinds of occupations and vocations to do all kinds of sacred work? How does this challenge or support your own thoughts about calling?

## Thought #2 – Their rhythm with God set them up to discover all that God had for them!

Verses: Acts 13:1-3

- No wonder the early church heard from God so clearly. They were in a regular rhythm of seeking God and communing with him. What regular rhythms of seeking and being with God do you presently observe? What regular rhythms would you like to begin?
- Tell your story. Tell of someone in your life who made a practice of spending regular time with God. How did that affect the way they lived their life?

