



Sermon Discussion Guide

04.30.23 Message | Ryan Wiemelt | Acts 13:1-4

Key Scriptures:

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 worshiping 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. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

- Acts 13:1-4

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- Ephesians 5:18-21

The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.

- Proverbs 16:4

Message Highlights:

- As the church, we must commit ourselves to the power and oversight of the Holy Spirit by pursuing Jesus Christ first and foremost.
- The Lord's presence is evident when his church prioritizes worship, prayer and fasting.
- As Christians, we should desire to be in a position Biblically that is well suited to hear and be led by the Holy Spirit.
- We can partner with the Holy Spirit by prayerfully inviting the Spirit in, checking our heart's posture, planting ourselves where the Spirit is moving and trusting him.



Conversation Starter:

Have you ever been in the position of working under a leader that made a poor decision, or didn't have the team's best interest in mind? What did that experience reveal about the importance of good leadership, or following a leader who cares for their followers?

Discuss the Message:

1. Who sent Saul and Barnabas to Cyprus according to Acts 13:1-4?
 - a. How does the Spirit's charge to Saul and Barnabas demonstrate what God calls us to do as Christians?
 - b. Have you ever received a prompting from the Holy Spirit? How did the Spirit's guidance change your perspective in that instance?
2. How does Ephesians 5:18-21 describe what it means to be filled with the Spirit?
 - a. This passage mentions making music with others and worshiping the Lord from our hearts. Whether using music, a journal, a garden or other means, how can creative expression enhance your worship and relationship with the Lord?
 - b. Ephesians 5:20 says to give thanks always. How can giving thanks for and with one another create spiritual flourishing within the communities you're a part of?
3. What has God made everything for in light of Proverbs 16:4?
 - a. Do you consider your purpose to love and follow God, walking with him all the days of your life? Why or why not?
 - b. Read Acts 5:32. How does this verse address the fear of 'missing' the Holy Spirit at work within us?
 - c. What obstacles do you encounter when seeking to obey the Holy Spirit? Identify a few ways in which you could overcome these obstacles.

Pray:

Holy Spirit, thank you for the ways that you guide us and lead us to everlasting life through Jesus Christ. We're grateful that you prompt us to move the Kingdom forward and advance the mission of the Gospel, even if it seems uncomfortable or we don't understand your purpose at the time. This week, may we continue to sacrifice for your sake. May we incline our hearts to love what you love, and desire your will for our lives. In Christ's name, amen.