

The Church in Antioch and the Global Expansion of God's Kingdom

ACTS 12:20–13:3

- Pastor John Andrew Clayton ■ Central Church ■ May 21, 2022 ■ Social Media: #ChurchonMission

Three Characteristics of a Missional Church:

1. A Church on Mission **Trusts** in **God's Sovereignty** (20–24).
2. A Church on Mission **Hears** the Spirit's **Call** (25–13:2).
3. A Church on Mission **Prioritizes** Christ's **Commission** (13:3)

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“Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon, and they came to him with one accord, and having persuaded Blasutus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for peace, because their country depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat upon the throne, and delivered an oration to them. And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” Immediately an angel of the Lord struck him down, because he did not give God the glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his last. But the word of God increased and multiplied. And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark. Now there were in the church in 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.”

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APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. What circumstances in your life or in this world are you tempted to view as a hindrance to the going forth of the gospel? How does God's sovereignty change the way we interpret our circumstances?
2. How would you characterize the church in Antioch based off of Acts 13:1–3? Which of those characteristics do you as an individual follower of Christ possess? In which of those characteristics do you see need for growth?
3. The church in Antioch was a worshiping church because it was composed of and led by worshipers. How does this passage challenge you to grow in your worship of the Lord?
4. The church in Antioch was a sending church. But each member of the church was involved in the process of sending out Barnabas, Saul and each of the other missionaries who were sent out from it. How is the Lord challenging you to prioritize Christ's commission in a greater way?
5. Read Romans 1:1–6 this week. Spend time thinking deeply about the emphasis that Paul places on viewing his life purpose through the lens of God's desire to make his saving name known among all nations.

Quote for the Week. . .

by John Piper – Let the Nations Be Glad!

“Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over, and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever.”