



Sermon Notes

Text: Acts 13:1-3

13 Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. **2** 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.” **3** So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.

Intro:

This Sunday we heard from Darcy & Leanne McAlister. They shared from Acts 3:1-3 showing that a shared life of prayer leads to fruitful mission.

The Dedication of Barnabas and Saul

The prayer time that we read about was all about the one job that Jesus gave us before he ascended into heaven in Acts 1:8.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Looking at Acts 13, we see that the Holy Spirit said, “dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work I have for them” - the message was simple, straightforward and clear. And how did they receive this message from God? We can’t know for sure exactly how it came about, but we know that it came from their position of prayer.

This position of prayerfulness models four important things for us today:

- 1. Pray first...then start planning**
We usually want to jump to planning instead of taking the needed time for prayer.
- 2. Listen with expectation**
These people expected to hear from God for vision and direction. They didn’t stop praying until they had heard from God
- 3. Discerning together**
When we share prayerfulness, it allows us to discern God’s voice together. It is amazing how God can speak the same message or encouragement to different people. When what we hear from God is affirmed by someone else, it brings confidence in our ability to hear God’s voice.
- 4. Prayer moves us to action**
We each need to receive the mission that God has for us and do what God invites us to. A life of shared prayerfulness requires action. A life of shared prayerfulness also requires shared action.

Connect Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. This week Pastor Nick's parents had the opportunity to embarrass him. What's an embarrassing thing that your parents have done to you?
- 2.

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Acts 13:1-3. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. In what ways do we skip past the value of praying together?
3. How could we shift our approach to prayer to better listen with expectation?
4. Do you find that prayer leads you toward action?
5. What has stood out to you from this series of prayerfulness?

Practice:

At the end of our Sunday service, we joined together to pray for two things as a congregation: the community of Abbotsford and financial provision for our church building. Commit to joining with our church in praying over these things each day this week.

Prayer: