

THE CALL OF CROSS-CULTURAL OUTREACH

Acts 12:25-13:52

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Intro: Here we see a new beginning of a new ministry from a new spiritual centre - Antioch in Syria. From here, we see that Gentile outreach is planned and directed by God in a fuller, more intentional manner.

Main Points:

1. Called and Set apart (v. 1-3)

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit gave directives.

Church leaders placed their hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them off.

Five words, that characterize the missionary program of the church at Antioch: prayer, fasting, guidance, release, and commissioning.

2. Persevered in the midst of setbacks (v. 4-13)

Opposed by the devil in Cyprus

The defection of John Mark in Perga (15:38)

3. All for the sake of the Gospel (v. 14-52)

Paul proclaimed the Gospel (in 3 parts) in Antioch of Pisidia

i. Anticipation of the coming of the Messiah (OT History) (v. 16-25)

ii. God's provision in Jesus Christ (v. 26-37)

iii. An invitation (v. 38-41)

The Gentiles received the Gospel with gladness (v. 48a)

For Reflection:

God in His compassion called Missionaries (Barnabas and Saul) to bring the Gospel to Asia. We are blessed because the Gospel came to Asia. The obedience of the church at Antioch to release Barnabas and Saul was critical in the expansion of missionary work in Asia and beyond. What is our part in Cross-Cultural outreach?