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The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Sean Ransom

Acts 13:1-3

“The Master’s Model for Missions”

Four characteristics of a missions minded church, so that you can follow God’s pattern for making disciples globally.

1. Missions minded churches are well taught by qualified ministers - v. 1
2. Missions minded churches prayerfully depend on the Holy Spirit - v. 2a-b
3. Missions minded churches set apart ministers who have a calling from God - v. 2c
4. Missions minded churches affirm and release their people to the field - v. 3

Acts 13:1-3

1 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was *there*, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Discussion & Application:

1. If a missionary has to leave the field because of incompetence or moral failure, how might that affect those that the missionary is working with and ministering to?
2. What kinds of challenges might a missionary face when going to another country to serve God?
3. Both the church in Jerusalem and Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel, made disciples, and planted churches. So why have we historically labeled Paul and Barnabas as missionaries, but not the church in Jerusalem? What, if anything, distinguishes their ministries?
4. Have you ever fasted? Describe your experience.
 - a. What kinds of decisions might warrant seeking God's will through fasting?
 - b. When might it be a good time to fast over individual sin?
 - c. When might it be a good time to fast over corporate or national sin?
5. When missionaries are affirmed and sent out globally, how should the church be involved?
 - a. In what ways can you affirm your missionary's calling?
 - b. How can you help send, encourage, and care for your missionaries?
 - c. What can you do to help fill the ministry roles left vacant when missionaries are sent to the field?
6. How do we recognize those whom the Holy Spirit has set apart to be missionaries? What should you be looking for?
7. List some people here at church who demonstrate godly character, giftedness, and fruitfulness, who could potentially go out as a missionary.
 - a. How can you encourage them to consider missions?
 - b. What ministry skills can you help them develop?
 - c. Is there a ministry in the church that does what they need to grow in?
 - d. Who can you talk to about what you have observed?