

November 21, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
TAKING IT TO THE STREETS // Evangelism Series
Episode 8: God's Advantage
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Acts 13:1-4 (ESV)

1 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. **2** 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." **3** Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. **4** So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

VS 2. "For Me"

- We all want to hear from God, but few are willing to spend significant time fasting, praying, and worshiping, for the sole purpose of praising God.
- Evangelism and mission are born out of the spring of spiritual attentiveness – seeking God both personally and corporately.
- The primary motivation for evangelism is that His name would be exalted wherever it is not.

Matthew 28:18-19 *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

- When we fail to worship Christ, we are in rebellion against reality.

"May the lamb that was slain receive the reward of his suffering"
~ Nitschmann and Dober

VS 3-4. "Sent"

- We see no signs of grumbling that some are chosen to be sent out in this moment while others are not. Instead, the Spirit speaks and brings unity to the collective.
- For the early church, the missional supersedes the personal.

- The paradox of Christianity is that true freedom is found in slavery to Christ.

Acts 17:16 “Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was **provoked** within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.”

3 Practical Challenges

1. Engage in spiritual disciplines such as fasting, prayer, and worship, for the sole purpose of surrender and exaltation. Richard Foster’s book *Celebration of Discipline* is a helpful resource for this endeavor.
2. Memorize Gospel-focused scripture. Romans 3:23-26 and Ephesians 2:1-5 are two examples.
3. Pray about where you might be called to serve?

Small Group Questions

1. Do you engage in any routine of spiritual disciplines? Fasting, prayer, worship, scripture reading, solitude, etc.
2. If so, how have these disciplines been helpful for you? If not, what are barriers that keep you from engagement?
3. When you think about evangelism what comes to mind? What motivates you to share your faith?
4. Is there any area of service or evangelism that you feel called to?
5. What are practical next steps to move into this calling?