

# Multiply | Sent

## Acts 13:1-3

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### I. The Prominence of Sending

- a. God the Father sent Jesus the Son to redeem mankind. (Jn. 3:16-17)
- b. Jesus sends us to continue His rescue mission. (Jn. 20:21)

*As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.*

—John 20:21b

- c. The Holy Spirit was sent to equip and empower us to fulfill God's mission. (Jn. 14:15-17; 16:7-11)

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses...*

—Acts 1:8

### II. The Example of Sending (Acts 13:1-3)

- a. Jesus sends every disciple to go with the Gospel. (Mt. 28:19; John 20:21)

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*

—Matthew 28:19a

- b. The local church is the sending center to reach the world. (Acts 13:1)

*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. 2While 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." 3Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

—Acts 13:1-3

*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.”*

—Acts 13:2

c. Everything we do must begin with seeking God in prayer. (Acts 13:2; Matt. 9:35-38)

*When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them...*

—Matthew 9:36

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*

—Matthew 9:37-38

d. God assigns certain leaders to be sent on specific assignments. (Acts 13:3)

*Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.*

—Acts 13:3

e. Not everyone is sent by the church, but everyone participates in the sending. (Acts 13:3)

### **III. Becoming a Sending Church**

1. Pray for a sending mindset. (Matt. 9:35-38)
2. Consider the part you'll play. (Acts 13:3)

*Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.*

—Acts 15:22

3. Be obedient to follow the Spirit's promptings. (Acts 16:6-7; 20:22-23)

*And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. 8So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

—Acts 16:6-10

*And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, 23except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.*

—Acts 20:22-23

*Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.*

—Proverbs 11:14

*pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*

—Matthew 9:38

## **Study Questions:**

1. It is not uncommon for churchgoers to find a church, grow comfortable, and never want to leave. Why do you think this is the mindset of many today? Explain. What are some of the advantages, as well as disadvantages to doing this? Be specific. Also, talk about how God's mission to reach the world with the Gospel might be crippled by such a practice.

2. The Bible is clear that God has called us to be on the move with the Gospel. Spend a few minutes reflecting on Matthew 9:35-38. Discuss how Jesus's words here speak to the urgency of sending people into the world. Think about your own heart towards those who have yet to hear the Gospel. How do Jesus' words (and call to prayer) challenge you personally?
3. As we continue to focus our efforts on being a sending church, how might God be leading you to participate? Maybe He's leading you to be more intentional where you live, learn, work, or play. Maybe he's calling you out of the marketplace and into full-time vocational ministry. For some, God might be calling you to a foreign mission field, or to be part of a local church plant. If you're already sensing God's prompting, share specifics with your group. If not, begin praying now for God to begin stirring your heart.

## **Prayer Points**

- Pray for God to stir your heart for those who have yet to come to Jesus. Think about specific people you know. Pray for them by name, asking God to give you a greater desire to share the Gospel with them.
- Offer up this simple prayer: God, are you calling me to be sent somewhere new for the sake of the Gospel? Sit quietly as you seek to hear from the Lord.
- In obedience to Matthew 9:37-38, pray for God to start a sending movement at Southbrook where everyone is participating in the mission of the church. Pray for God to raise up more and more people to be sent out with the Gospel.