

THE CHURCH THAT SENDS ITS BEST

Acts 11:19–13:5, #12 in the series Acts: The Road Before Us, 8/2/26, Dave Geldart

1. [1] INTRODUCTION

- a. It's good to be back.
 - i. We're so lucky to have a really healthy preaching team at our church!
- b. Two weeks ago James showed us Saul's map getting rewritten on the road to Damascus.
- c. Last week Brian showed us Peter's map getting rewritten on a rooftop in Joppa.
- d. Two very different men, two very different encounters, but, as Brian said: One Author.
- e. [2] Jesus laid it all out at the beginning when he said: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- f. Look at the maps on our walls.
 - i. St. George, Manhattan, Wamego — our Jerusalem.
 - ii. Pottawatomie and Riley Counties — our Judea.
 - iii. All of Kansas — our Samaria.
 - iv. And the world stretching out past that — our ends of the earth.
- g. Every week those maps remind us this isn't just Luke's outline. It's ours.
- h. The gospel ripples outward.
 - i. Through ordinary people.
 - ii. Through simple acts of obedience.
- i. And today we hit one of the most important turning points in the whole book —
 - i. the hinge where the story starts moving from addition to multiplication.

ii. [3] THE CHURCH THAT SENDS ITS BEST

2. A NEW CENTER OF GRAVITY

- a. Ask any believer in Acts 2 where the center of the church was,
 - i. and you'd get the same answer every time: Jerusalem.
 - ii. That's where everything started
 - 1. Where Jesus lived, taught, died and rose,
 - 2. where Pentecost happened,
 - 3. where the apostles were.
- b. But then, anyone forcing it, God starts shifting the center of gravity —
 - i. outward, toward Antioch: multi-ethnic, Gentile-heavy, brand new.
- c. Watch what happens there:

3. [4] READ ACTS 11:19–30

19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

[5] 23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

[6] 27 During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) 29 The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. 30 This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

→ **PRAY** (ask God to speak)

4. [7] THE CHURCH BUILT BY PERSECUTION

- a. Luke opens with: "Those who had been scattered because of the persecution."
 - i. We've heard that before — back in chapter 8,
 - ii. Stephen is executed by a mob, the church scatters.
 - iii. A time of fear and disruption
 - 1. grief, instability, violence, people losing homes, jobs, sometimes their lives.
- b. And yet Luke keeps repeating the same refrain:
 - i. the word of God kept spreading,
 - ii. the church kept multiplying,
 - iii. And it wasn't because circumstances got easier but because Jesus was still King.
- c. **Some of us are waiting for life to calm down before we jump in and obey —**
 - i. for work to slow, the kids to grow, the finances to settle.
 - 1. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?**
 - ii. The early church didn't get that kind of calm.
 - 1. The gospel moved anyway.
- d. And notice something new:

- i. these scattered believers aren't just talking to Jews anymore —
 - 1. some start talking to Greeks – NON-JEWS
- ii. That's the exact ripple Brian traced last week:
 - 1. Jews, to Samaritans, to God-fearers like the Ethiopian Eunuch and Cornelius, to Gentiles everywhere.
- e. And here it is again, on its own, in a different city, with nobody's permission.
 - i. No apostle orchestrated it —
 - ii. the Spirit was already moving in more than one place at once,
 - iii. and the church was just trying to keep up.

5. [8] BARNABAS IS SENT

- a. Jerusalem hears what's happening in Antioch and sends someone to check it out —
 - i. of course it's Barnabas.
 - ii. He keeps showing up at exactly the right moment in Acts.
 - iii. His name means Son of Encouragement, and he lives up to it:
 - 1. he doesn't arrive looking for problems or try to make Antioch look more like Jerusalem – like some we'll read about,
 - 2. [9] He looks, sees the grace of God, and verse 23 says he was glad.
- b. **Are we the kind of people who rejoice when God works somewhere unfamiliar,**
 - i. **or do we get suspicious the moment it doesn't look like we expect?**
 - ii. Barnabas had enough security in God to celebrate grace wherever he found it.
- c. This isn't the first time Barnabas has taken a risk on people others mistrusted.
 - i. Two weeks ago, in James's sermon, we heard about the first time —
 - 1. back in Jerusalem, right after Saul's conversion,
 - 2. when the believers there were still terrified of him.
 - ii. Acts 9 says it plainly: they were afraid of Saul, but Barnabas took him and brought him in.

6. BARNABAS GOES LOOKING FOR SAUL

- a. [10] Verse 25. Barnabas goes to Tarsus to find Saul (also known as Paul).
- b. Remember him? Brilliant Pharisee. Dramatic conversion.
 - i. Caused a lot of trouble.
 - ii. Then — nothing. Years of nothing. Back home, mostly forgotten, waiting.
- c. Imagine being Saul —
 - i. called dramatically, certain God would use him somehow, and then: silence.
 - 1. From stardom to moving back into your parents' basement.

- 2. No platform, no spotlight,
 - 3. just ordinary everyday faithfulness
- d. Some of you know exactly what that feels like.
 - i. God has clearly gifted you, given you drive and vision,
 - ii. and yet right now your life looks like Paul's back in Tarsus: stuck, hidden.
- e. But hidden does not mean forgotten.**
 - i. A wheat field in January looks like nothing's happening — the seed is doing its most important work underground, before anyone sees a stalk.
- f. This is actually the typical biblical pattern for those God uses:
 - i. Moses had forty years tending animals in Midian.
 - ii. David had years alone with sheep.
 - iii. God does some of His deepest work in people nobody's watching.
- g. As a young man just out of seminary, my pastor Todd was a Barnabas to me.**
 - i. I was just the part-time church administrative assistant —
 - 1. young, rough edges, naïve, an odd mix of timid and brash.
 - ii. But he took me under his wing, invested in me,
 - 1. Brought me into his living room
 - iii. gave me early opportunities to lead and preach and disciple,
 - 1. and stuck with me even when I failed.
 - iv. He's a significant part of why I'm here today.
- h. This is how we're seeking to develop leaders now at Tru —**
 - i. not waiting for people to be finished products,**
 - ii. but walking alongside them while they're still being formed.**
- i. That's discipleship:
 - i. inviting someone into ministry before they're polished,
 - ii. because someone once took that risk on you.

7. [11] THE GENEROUS CHURCH

- a. Before the chapter closes, notice something that might be easy to skip:
 - i. A prophet predicts a famine, and Antioch's first move isn't self-protection —
 - 1. it's generosity - an offering, for Jerusalem.
 - 2. The younger church supports the older one.
 - 3. The Gentile believers bless the Jewish believers who first brought them the gospel.
 - ii. Nobody made them. The Spirit simply gave them the heart of Jesus.
- b. That's what healthy churches do.

- i. They don't just consume — they ask who else they can strengthen.
- c. [12] We got a small taste of that last Sunday afternoon,**
 - i. **meeting with missionary Sheree Wuertz, who some of you already know.**
 - ii. She and her husband George met at K-State, and weeks before their wedding in 2001, sensed a clear call to Ecuador —
 - 1. they've served there ever since, sent out from Westview,
 - a. the same church that planted us.
 - 2. The Hackerotts even visited them in Ecuador years ago!
 - iii. Since the pandemic, their focus has shifted hard toward orphan care:
 - 1. using Sheree's training in marriage and family therapy to help build Ecuador's foster and adoption system,
 - 2. so these kids don't just get put in large orphanages until they age out, only to move into gangs and cartels, like they used to.
 - 3. But instead can have a chance at a loving home and a family
- d. I'm excited to tell you Tru's beginning our first monthly support of a global missionary —
 - i. Sheree, out at the edge of our maps, our ends of the earth.
 - ii. She's hoping to find 10 new monthly partners at \$100/mo before they head back to Ecuador fully funded this September — and we get to be one of them!
 - 1. And here's a detail only God could have set up: our new denominational giving came in a little lower than we'd planned for.
 - 2. Which means the room to support Sheree was already sitting there in our new missions budget — before we ever asked the question.
 - 3. God made room before we knew we'd need it.
 - iii. We're just following the ancient way:
 - 1. Antioch giving to Judea.
 - 2. Us giving to Ecuador.
 - 3. Same Spirit, same instinct.
- e. That generosity was only a preview —
 - i. soon Antioch would give something even more costly than money:
 - 1. people, their very best people.

8. [13] A quick gap to fill: in chapter 12 a lot happens —

- a. more persecution, the apostle James executed,
- b. Peter arrested and then miraculously freed by an angel,
- c. King Herod accepting worship that belongs only to God and dying for it.
- d. Read the details yourself this week in the study guide.

- e. For now, just know it was chaotic and dangerous,
 - i. and nobody knew what tomorrow held.
- f. And right in the middle of that noise, Luke drops this short, profound verse as the story continues:
- g. ACTS 12:24—But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.
 - i. I love that repeating contrast
 - ii. Herod dies. Kings rise and fall, empires wax and wane,
 - iii. and Luke just quietly notes: the word of God continued to spread and flourish.
 - iv. That's his whole take on history —
 - 1. it isn't driven by nations or kings, it's driven by King Jesus.
 - v. Herod gets a paragraph. Jesus' mission gets the rest of the book.

9. [14] Continuing on: [READ ACTS 12:25–13:5]

25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

13:1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with 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."

[15] 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. 4 The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

10. THE KIND OF CHURCH GOD USES

- a. [16] Look at the leadership Luke names in Antioch:
 - i. Barnabas;
 - ii. Simeon called Niger, likely a dark-skinned African;
 - iii. Lucius of Cyrene, from North Africa;
 - iv. Manaen, raised in Herod's own court,
 - 1. about as close to royalty as this crowd gets;
 - v. and Saul, the Jewish Pharisee.
- b. Different regions, different worlds, one church.
- c. Antioch already looks like where the gospel is headed.
 - i. Not uniformity — unity, centered on Jesus.
- d. And what are they doing when the Spirit speaks?

- e. Verse 2: worshiping the Lord and fasting. That's where it starts.
- f. Sometimes we get so busy doing things for God that we quit spending time with God.
 - i. Fasting isn't twisting His arm —
 - 1. it's clearing enough space to actually hear Him say,
 - 2. "Before you decide what's next, here's what I want."

11.[17] GIVE US YOUR BEST

- a. "The Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul.'"
- b. So, this is not Barnabas and Saul's idea, not the elders' — the Spirit's.
 - i. Mission has always been God's idea before it's ours.
 - ii. We don't invent it. We join it.
- c. Think about who God's asking for:
 - i. Not the leftovers, not the volunteers nobody else wanted —
 - ii. Barnabas and Saul are, by any measure, the two strongest leaders Antioch has.
- d. The church there could have been thinking: "Finally some momentum, new converts, real teaching"
 - i. and the Spirit says to the church: give them away.
 - ii. Most of us would want to negotiate that —
 - 1. Lord, couldn't we send somebody else less important?
 - 2. And maybe once we're a little bigger,
 - 3. Once the budgets are deeper?
- e. We subtly assume multiplication is something only large, wealthy churches can afford.
 - i. BUT Acts says otherwise.
- f. Multiplication is what healthy churches do, at whatever size,
 - i. **because the mission is never about our capacity.**
 - ii. **It's always about His.**
- g. Every organization drifts toward self-preservation, churches included.
 - i. But Jesus actually didn't call us to preserve ourselves.
 - ii. He called us to abide in him, make disciples and send workers.
- h. [18] So Antioch doesn't grumble or argue.
 - i. After they fasted and prayed,
 - 1. they lay hands on Barnabas and Saul, and send them.
 - ii. Laying on hands isn't "good luck" — as we talked about last week, it's a commissioning: it's the church together saying out loud:
 - 1. "we recognize God's call, we stand with you,

2. we release you, and you don't go alone."

12.[19] THEY HAD TO "GO WITHOUT THE WHOLE MAP"

- a. One phrase in chapter 13 strikes me: "sent ...by the Holy Spirit, (they) went."
 - i. Not primarily sent by Antioch — sent by the Spirit.
 - ii. The church commissioned them, but the ultimate sender was God Himself.
- b. So, they didn't have the whole route planned out.
 - i. We know this becomes Paul's first missionary journey,
 - ii. but they didn't call it that —
 - 1. as far as they knew, they were simply taking the next obedient step.
- c. Two weeks ago James called this Saul's Waze app —
 - i. God rewriting the route one turn at a time, never handing over the whole map at once.
 - ii. Abraham got "go to the land I will show you."
 - iii. Saul got a light on the Damascus road
 - 1. and three days of darkness before the next instruction came.
 - iv. Now Barnabas and Saul get "set apart for the work I have called them to,"
 - 1. and that's it.
- d. We'd prefer the five-year plan. 10 or 20 would be better.
- e. But God usually gives us His presence instead, and says, walk with Me.
 - i. The next step becomes clear once you're moving —
 - ii. it's far easier to steer a moving car than a parked one.

13.[20] THIS IS WHERE OUR STORY CONNECTS

- a. This is where Acts stops being ancient history.
- b. For a while now we've been talking about becoming a multiplying church —
 - i. not just getting bigger on Sundays,
 - ii. but multiplying disciples, leaders, groups, and eventually churches.
- c. It's one of our BHAGGs this year,
 - i. alongside multiplying our discipling relationships and LIFE Groups:
 - ii. joining a church planting network to help plant a new church.
 - 1. Today, Antioch hands us the biblical logic for why.
- d. Here's where we are with that goal:
 - i. We've begun exploring partnership with a Wesleyan Church Planting Network to help plant a new church in
 - 1. [21] Hays, KS, two and a half hours west on I-70 —

2. Firmly in our Samaria,
3. Home to Fort Hays State University, more than 20,000 people, and not one Wesleyan church.
- ii. Now I know what some of you are probably thinking:
 1. "Dave...we're not Antioch. We're a church of around a hundred people. Can we really do something like that?"
- iii. That's exactly why I love this story.
- iv. Antioch wasn't the largest church in the early church.
 1. It wasn't the oldest.
 2. It wasn't the richest.
- v. It simply became the church that was willing to listen to the Holy Spirit and hold everything with open hands.
- vi. This isn't some massive leap for us.
 1. God has already been preparing the way.
 2. A portion of what we already give each month through our denominational giving comes back as Church Catalyst funds
 3. We've already accumulated more than \$5,000 that's specifically available to help us participate in church planting.
- vii. In other words...
 1. our first step has already been funded.
 2. That doesn't mean there won't be sacrifice someday.
 3. It probably will.
 4. But today, God has already provided a simple, faithful next step.
- viii. Tomorrow several of us are driving to Hays with pastors from around Kansas to pray and dream together.
 1. Brian from Westview will be there.
 2. Eric Norris from Flint Rock in Riley will be there too.
 - a. Think about that for a second.
 - b. Flint Rock is itself a brand-new church plant.
 - c. And it's already looking outward toward helping plant another church.
 - i. That's healthy. That's Acts.
 - ii. Churches planting churches.
- ix. **People sometimes ask why we'd plant another church when there are already churches in Kansas.**
 1. It's because nearly every major study continues to show the same thing:

- 2. the most effective way to reach people for Christ is to plant new churches.
 - a. Different neighborhoods.
 - b. Different relationships.
 - c. Different people who may never walk through our doors...
 - i. but might walk through theirs.
- x. That's the ripple.
 - 1. Hays and Ecuador,
 - 2. new pins on the same map that starts right here in St. George, Manhattan, Wamego.
- xi. The road just keeps going.
- xii. **We're not primarily trying to become a big church.**
 - 1. **We're trying to become the kind of church God can trust with His mission.**

14. WHAT KIND OF CHURCH WILL WE BE

- a. So here's Antioch's question for us: **are we willing to give our best, not our leftovers?**
- b. That's exactly what God gave us —
 - i. John 3:16 doesn't say He gave the world His spare parts.
 - ii. He gave His only Beloved Son.
- c. Sending is written into the character of God before it's ever asked of us.

15. [22] APPLICATION:

- a. What's the next step He's asking you to take today?
 - i. Get connected with Jesus and his body
- b. [23] For some, it's serving the church for the first time — Kids, Youth, Care, Prayer, etc.
- c. [24] For others, it's personal discipleship:
 - i. stop waiting to be assigned somebody, invite a person to coffee,
 - 1. someone here, or a neighbor or coworker
 - ii. Grab the Acts guide or The Gospel Centered Life from the welcome table and work through it with someone you know.
- d. [25] Be somebody's Barnabas.
 - i. He encouraged and walked with Saul even when it was messy
 - ii. Remember John Mark, the helper we just read about — he's going to abandon Paul and Barnabas on the very next journey — causing real damage.
 - iii. But he's not done.
 - iv. Barnabas sticks with him

- v. Years later Paul asks for him by name, and he goes on to write the Gospel that bears his name.
- vi. God's not finished with people who fail you either.
- e. [26] For others, it's a next step up into leadership —
 - i. help lead or plant a LIFE Group,
 - 1. like the Smollers and Mills are doing next month,
 - ii. or start something with a narrower focus.
- f. [27] And for all of us, the next step with Ecuador and Hays starts with prayer.
 - i. Not the “I’ll be praying for you” kind of prayer that dies immediately after the good intentions.
 - 1. But the kind of regular, committed prayer they did in Antioch
 - ii. Grab Sheree's prayer card on the welcome table,
 - 1. place on your dashboard or somewhere you’ll see it – a Ziploc bag in the shower works great too
 - 2. and begin praying regularly
 - iii. For Hays,
 - 1. begin praying for its people.
 - 2. Pray for the pastors God will raise up,
 - 3. the families who'll walk through the doors,
 - 4. and provision for all a new church will need.
 - 5. If, over time, God asks more of us to help —
 - a. workdays, a launch Sunday, giving, even sending some of our own people — would we say yes the way Antioch did?

16.[28] REST THROUGH RISK

- a. A few years ago I cheated a little on my word of the year and chose a short phrase: Rest Through Risk.
 - i. I’d assume rest would come from playing it safe – making sure you don’t let yourself get hurt. → That's what my anxiety told me.
 - ii. But God wanted to teach me the open secret that real peace shows up when you stop trying to protect yourself and simply hand your life to your Father.
- b. That sounds backwards — But I've become convinced our greatest legacy
 - i. was never meant to be self-preservation –
 - ii. though it’s so often our default.
 - iii. I’ve felt the peace as I’ve taken those risky steps of letting God care for and direct me.

c. It's the same for Tru

i. **Are we becoming a church the Holy Spirit can tap on the shoulder —**

1. one that worships and listens before it acts,
2. that gives without fear,
3. that sends its best instead of hoarding them?

ii. It's not ultimately about whether we grow especially bigger or last forever.

1. Spoiler alert, we won't.

iii. It's about the growth of Jesus' eternal Kingdom, and our secure place in it.

d. [29] Missionary Jim Elliot famously put it better than I can:

i. *He's no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.*

e. Antioch believed that when they gave their best.

- i. May we believe it when it's our turn.

f. Because Jesus is inviting us onto the same road

- i. The same Spirit is still speaking, still sending.

g. If we keep following Him together, I think we'll find what Antioch found:

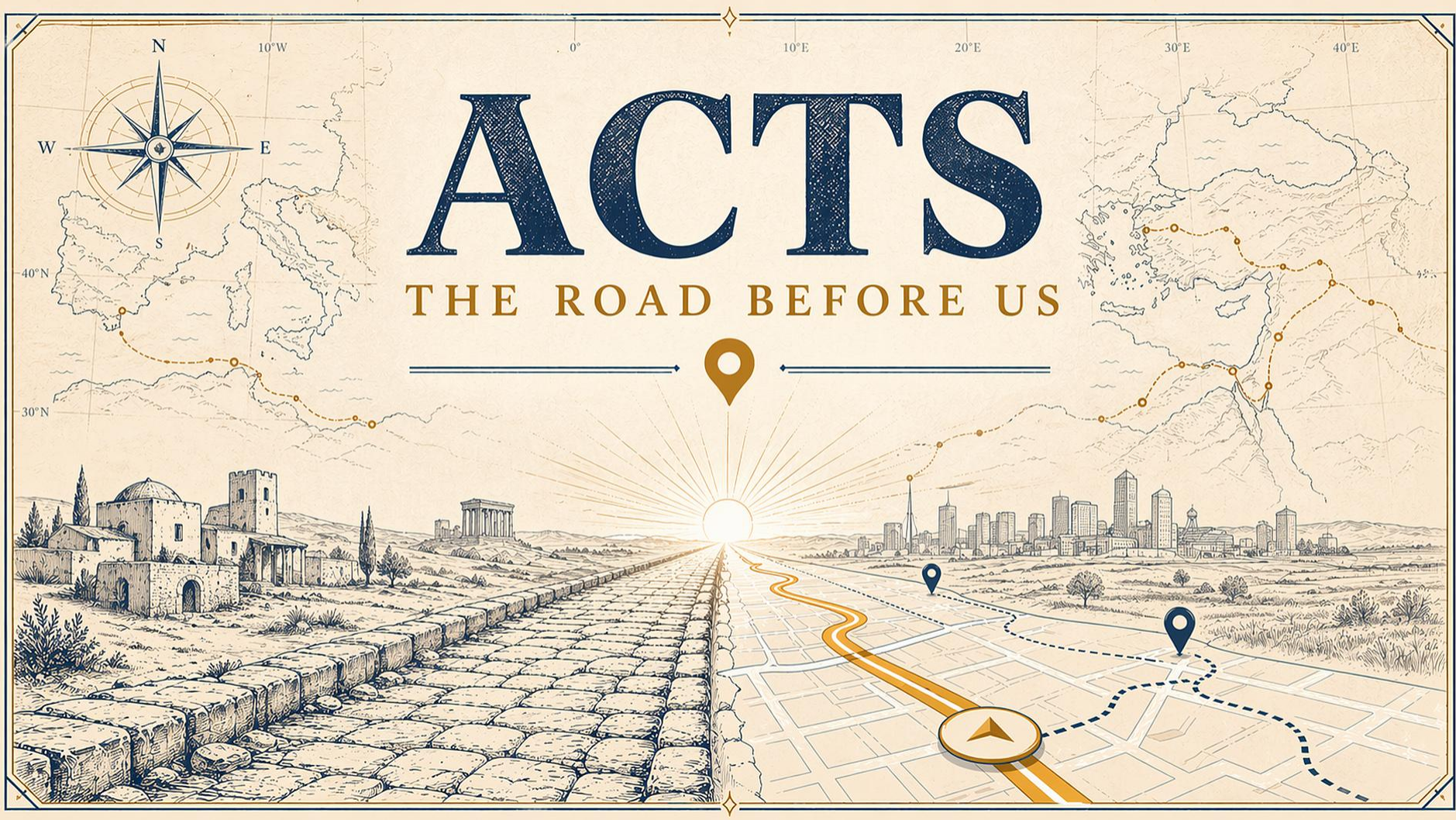
- i. You never lose by releasing what already belongs to Jesus.
- ii. You get to watch with joyful awe as the Gospel ripples out farther than you could imagine → and experience deep rest through risk

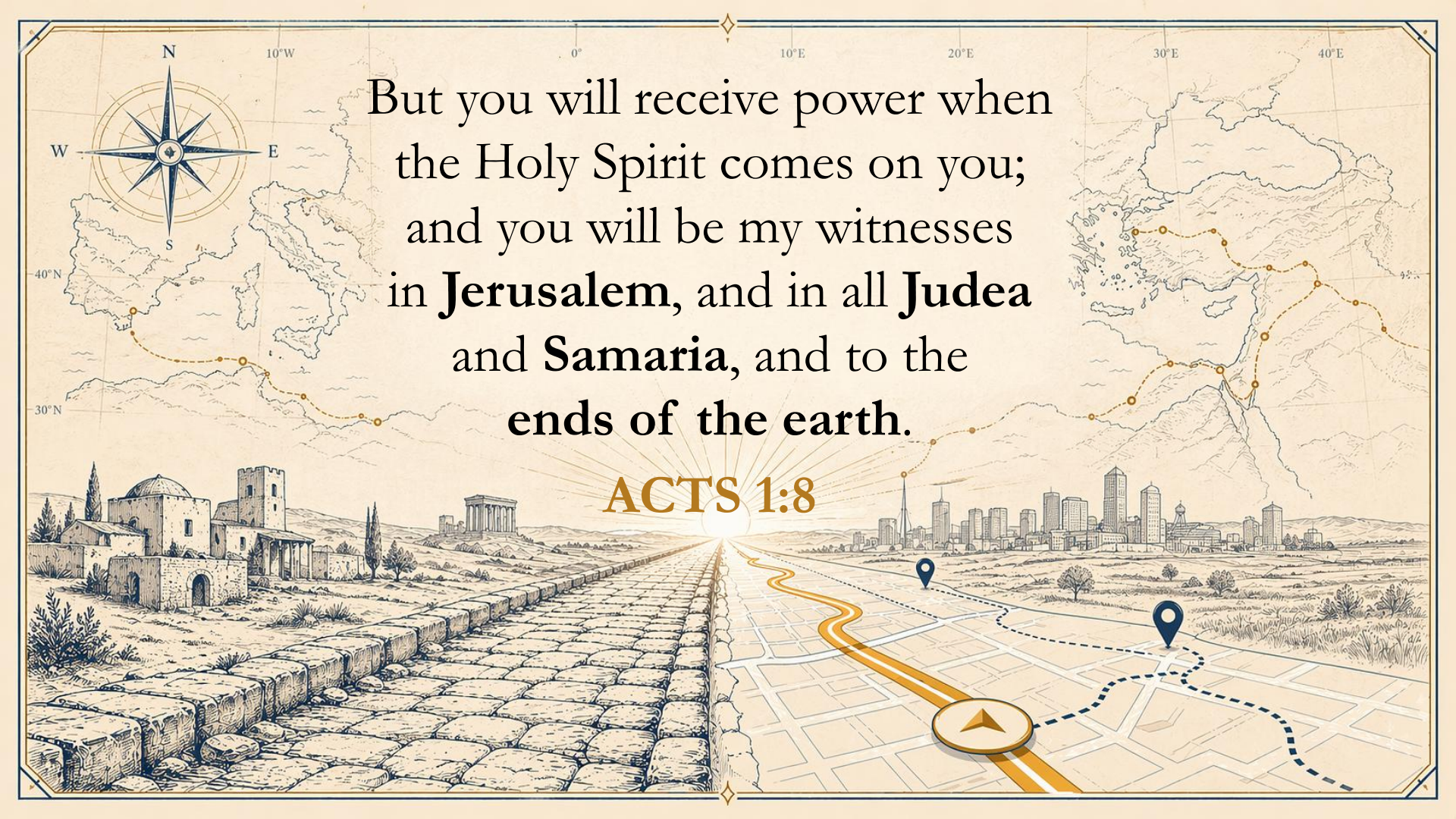
17.[30] PRAY

18. [31] **Communion:** The same generosity and sending that marked Antioch is rooted at this

Table, where Jesus gave His best for us —

- a. and in so doing, brought us close to himself and to one another in this family.
- b. We'll close today celebrating that communion, with Christ and with one another.
 - i. The bread reminds us of his body broken for us on the cross.
 - ii. The cup, his blood shed for us. → Come.





But you will receive power when
the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be my witnesses
in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea**
and **Samaria**, and to the
ends of the earth.

ACTS 1:8

THE CHURCH THAT SENDS ITS BEST

ACTS 11:19-13:5



A NEW CENTER OF GRAVITY

ACTS 11: ¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. ²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

A NEW CENTER OF GRAVITY

ACTS 11: ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.



A NEW CENTER OF GRAVITY

ACTS 11: ²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.



BUILT BY PURSECUTION

ACTS 11: ¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. ²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

BARNABAS IS SENT

ACTS 11: ¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. ²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 

BARNABAS IS SENT

ACTS 11: ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.



BARNABAS SEEKS OUT SAUL

ACTS 11: ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.



THE GENEROUS CHURCH

ACTS 11: ²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. ³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.



10°W

0°

10°E

20°E

30°E

40°E

SHEREE WUERTZ | ECUADOR

40°N

30°N



ACTS CHAPTER 12

More persecution (12:1)

The apostle James executed (12:2)

Peter arrested and then miraculously freed (12:3-19)

King Herod accepting worship and dying (12:20-23)

12:24 But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.



THE KIND OF CHURCH GOD USES

ACTS 12: ²⁵ When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

ACTS 13: ¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with 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." 

THE KIND OF CHURCH GOD USES

ACTS 13: ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.



THE KIND OF CHURCH GOD USES

ACTS 12: ²⁵ When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

ACTS 13: ¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with 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." 

GIVE YOUR BEST

ACTS 12: ²⁵ When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

ACTS 13: ¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with 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."



GIVE YOUR BEST

ACTS 13: ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.



GO WITHOUT THE WHOLE MAP

ACTS 13: ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.



WHERE OUR STORY CONNECTS

ACTS 13: ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.



10°W

0°

10°E

20°E

30°E

40°E

WHERE OUR STORY CONNECTS

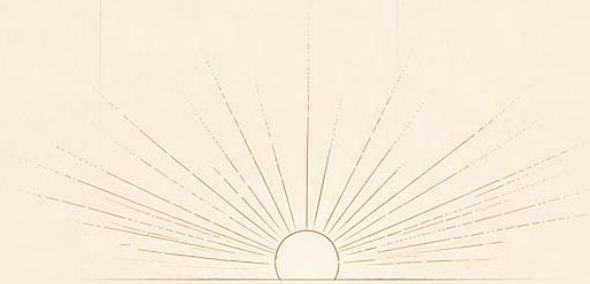


HAYS | KANSAS



APPLICATION

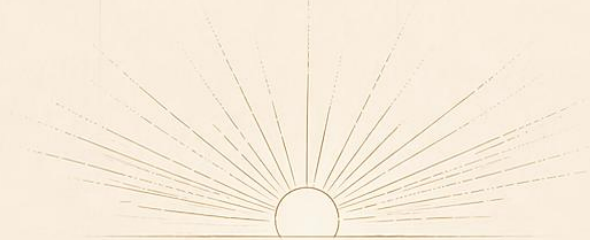
What's the next step God's asking you to take today?



APPLICATION

What's the next step God's asking you to take today?

SERVING (KIDS, YOUTH, ETC.)



APPLICATION

What's the next step God's asking you to take today?

SERVING (KIDS, YOUTH, ETC.)

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP



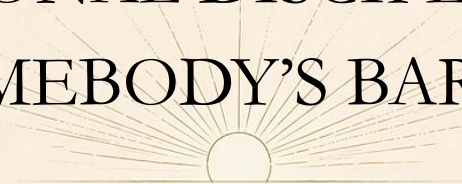
APPLICATION

What's the next step God's asking you to take today?

SERVING (KIDS, YOUTH, ETC.)

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

BE SOMEBODY'S BARNABAS



APPLICATION

What's the next step God's asking you to take today?

SERVING (KIDS, YOUTH, ETC.)

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

BE SOMEBODY'S BARNABAS

LEADERSHIP (LEAD OR PLANT A GROUP)



APPLICATION

What's the next step God's asking you to take today?

SERVING (KIDS, YOUTH, ETC.)

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

BE SOMEBODY'S BARNABAS

LEADERSHIP (LEAD OR PLANT A GROUP)

PRAY FOR ECUADOR AND HAYS



REST THROUGH RISK

What's the next step God's asking you to take today?

SERVING (KIDS, YOUTH, ETC.)

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

BE SOMEBODY'S BARNABAS

LEADERSHIP (LEAD OR PLANT A GROUP)

PRAY FOR ECUADOR AND HAYS



REST THROUGH RISK

What's the next step God's asking you to take today?

SERVING (KIDS, YOUTH, ETC.)

PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP

BE SOMEBODY'S BARNABAS

LEADERSHIP (LEAD OR PLANT A GROUP)

PRAY FOR ECUADOR AND HAYS

*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep
to gain what he cannot lose. — Jim Elliot*



THE CHURCH THAT SENDS ITS BEST

ACTS 11:19-13:5



COMMUNION

