

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 29 – Set Apart for the Work

Acts 13.1-17

Setting of Antioch – 3rd largest city (300k), diverse, Jewish population of 20k

Marks

- Worship
 - Helps us know God – the more passionately you lean into this the more you have a big view of God and correct view of your life (sin, circumstances, suffering)
 - We are a grateful people
- Fasting
 - Helps you know God – abstaining from something you live on in order to bring focus, teaching you that you *don't* have to have everything you immediately want
 - We are a dependent people
- Listening
 - Helps you know God – as we are open to His Word, we get insight into who He is, what He likes, what He's doing, how He is working, whom He is using, why He is moving
 - We are a relational people
- Obeying
 - Helps you know God – the path of obedience leads to greater revelation (John 14.21) and confirmation that what you believe is real (John 7.17)
 - We are a devoted people
- These don't define church as much as these practices help the church BE the church (this comes from who we are – they are the paths we walk)

To privatize your faith is to betray its spirit and content – it is uncontainable

- They are SENT OUT to do the work

Outcomes

- You will face opposition
 - Spiritual warfare: “wanted to run Him away from faith”
 - “Opposed them” – can be personal or spiritual
 - Don't fight spiritual battles with worldly weapons – sarcasm, trickery, emojis, elections, legislation, gathering an army
 - Before the worldly problem is addressed, the spiritual battles must be fought

- Be filled with the Holy Spirit – don't try to win otherwise
 - When you surrender, then you can speak (Luke 12.11-12)
- You will find opportunity
 - Sergius Paulus – “a man of intelligence”
 - You don't have to check your brain to be a Christian
 - People's curiosity means God is already at work
 - NO argument, YES reasoning – NO downgrade, YES revelation
BIRD BOX
 - If Jesus rose from the dead, you need to listen to Him; if He didn't, don't bother
 - Speak the truth plainly - Sergius was astonished at the Lord's *teaching*, not the Lord's power (free market Jesus)

Whatever you do – TRUST GOD for the power and outcomes

Questions for Discussion:

1. If you grew up in or around church, what were the marks of church that you remember? What seemed important to the church you grew up in? What was repeated?
2. Out of the four marks identified in the text, which do you have most experience with? Least experience with?
3. What was the last thing you sensed God say to you that required your obedience as the next step? When you took it (assuming you did), how did you know God more intimately as a result? How was your faith in Him confirmed?
4. What are some ways you have experienced opposition when setting out to do what God said to do? What about ministry-related things specifically (“I want to share the Gospel with my friend, I want to love my spouse more intentionally,” etc.)? What does it mean in those situations to fight the spiritual war with spiritual weapons (vs. worldly weapons)?
5. What opportunities for ministry are on your radar right now? Where do you see spiritual curiosity in others? What's one practical step you need to take in order to follow through on those opportunities?
6. In the sermon, Trent said that Jesus can hold His own in the free market of ideas. Can you think of an example where you *know* that to be true? In what area do you think it's hardest to believe (i.e. sexuality, reliability of the Bible, etc.)?