



### OPENING QUESTION

If there was a problem whether personal or global that you can solve, what would that problem be?

### WORD

*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.*

[Acts 13:1-12, 46-52 - the church at Antioch](#)

### MESSAGE

#### Intercultural Corporate Worship

Verse 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.**"

*In this environment of preparation to launch people into their positions geographically into other places to serve God, the church (the people not the building) are gathered all from various backgrounds such as Cyrene, Tarsus and Antioch (Africa, Europe and Asia geographically) are represented and all seeking God together in worship.*

*While they are worshiping, God speaks to them collectively to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the calling.*



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## Prayer and Fasting

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

*It is in this environment of seeking God in prayer and fasting that God gives them the clarity of the right people being sent to the right mission field for the right calling at the right time.*

*God often uses fasting and prayer to clear the airwaves to be able to hear God together as a people for his direction and his empowerment in being filled with the Spirit.*

## Prophecy

**8 But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith. 9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him 10 and said, "You son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, full of all deceit and villainy, will you not stop making crooked the straight paths of the Lord? 11 And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind and unable to see the sun for a time." Immediately mist and darkness fell upon him, and he went about seeking people to lead him by the hand.**

*Being filled with the Spirit enabled Paul (also Saul) to have the boldness to be able to step out and look Elymas the magician in the eye and confront him on the evil he was doing by using the word of the Lord, but also recognising that the hand of the Lord is on Elymas, to the point where he would have to rely on others to guide him.*

## Teaching

**12 Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished at the teaching of the Lord.**

*46 And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. 47 For so the Lord has commanded us, saying,*

*"I have made you a light for the Gentiles,*

*that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."*

*48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. 49 And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. 50 But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

*Spirit led teaching helps the hearers and learners in so many ways. Here are a few ways that it helps in these situations in Acts 13:*

Vs 12 - "astonishment at the teaching of the LORD" - they are able to see God in the

teaching, and it leaves people amazed at God's teaching not the teacher.

Vs 46 "judge yourselves" - the teaching of the word helps one to judge themselves as to whether they are aligned with God's word.

Vs 47 "so the Lord has commanded us saying " I have made you a light for the gentiles"" - the teaching of the word serves as a reminder and a light to those who have not experienced the word, whilst a prophetic reminder for those who have already heard it.

Vs 48 - The teaching of the LORD turns lives around, and causes people to rejoice because they have ETERNAL LIFE.

Vs 49 - the teaching of the LORD is worth spreading throughout the nations./

Vs 50 - the teaching of the LORD is also going to stir persecution, because of how it confronts people

Vs 51-52 - the teaching of the LORD fills you with joy and the Holy Spirit and keeps you on His mission.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do you hope to be more deliberate in receiving the Teaching of the Lord on a daily basis?
2. Do you make it a point to worship God regularly with others? What does this look like to you?
3. How strong are your intercultural relationships? What can you do to strengthen them?
4. What role does fasting play in your life right now? How might God be calling you to seek Him in fasting and prayer from today onwards?

## PRAYER

1. Pray for a desire to go deeper in God's word through a more fervent pursuit of solid teaching and a deeper devotional lifestyle.
2. Take time to remember the prophetic words that have been spoken and prayed over your life, thank God for it. If you haven't had anyone prophesy over you, speak to your pastor or lifegroup leader to have them pray over you prophetically.
3. Pray for where God may be leading you and the people you are praying with. What is your current mission field?
4. Pray for the church, your lifegroup members and your spiritual family - pray for deep encounters with Jesus.