

Recap of 11/7/21 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 13:1-3

1. The story of the rest of the Book of Acts is that the gospel moves out to the ends of the earth under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

2. “Now the gospel moves out officially on its way to the ends of the earth. On its way to the ends of the earth the gospel came to my ancestors and to your ancestors. Today you and I are the beneficiaries of the fact that someone went down the road of this world to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. You and I ought to be in the business of taking the gospel down beyond where we are to some who have not heard.” (McGee)

3. The Holy Spirit sets apart Barnabas and Saul, “the best and ablest ministers,” for this ministry to the ends of the earth. They were 2/5’s of the ministry team at Antioch.

4. The basis of their call was not the need, but the sovereign purpose of God. If need were the criteria they would have stayed in Antioch since there were about a half-million pagans there who needed the gospel. Oswald Chambers writes:

“A missionary is someone sent by Jesus Christ just as He was sent by God. The great controlling factor is not the needs of people, but the command of Jesus.... The goal is to be true to Him—to carry our **His** plans. Personal attachment to the Lord Jesus and to His perspective is the one thing that must not be overlooked. In missionary work the great danger is that God’s call will be replaced by the needs of the people, to the point that human sympathy for those needs will absolutely overwhelm the meaning of being sent by Jesus.... We tend to forget that the one great reason underneath all missionary work is not primarily the elevation of the people, their education, nor their needs, but is first and foremost the command of Jesus Christ—‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations’ (Matthew 28:19).”

5. God calls to the ministry those who are: already at work, gifted for the work, called by the Holy Spirit, yielded to God, strong mentally and physically, and confirmed by the church and the people who know them.

6. A missions-sending church is one that is:

-busy at home doing the work of the ministry

-an instructed church

-a teaching church

-a giving church

-a spiritual, praying, worshipping church