

Sharpening the Focus of the Church

January 29, 2023

Pastor Todd McAllister

The _____ is the most important institution in the world.
Therefore we need to seek to clearly understand the church.

Jerusalem Church: the _____ church

Antioch Church: the first _____ church

Acts 13:1-3 brings the church into a very clear _____.

Backstory: Acts 11:19-30

Antioch--third largest city

Jew and Gentile _____

A great number _____ to the Lord

Barnabas--sent by the _____ church

Saul--brought by _____ from Tarsus

Instruction--taught a great many people

--first called _____

Relief work--trip to Jerusalem

Acts 12 summary

James dead (brother of John)

Peter released

James--Jerusalem church leader (half-brother of Jesus)

Herod dead

Barnabas, Saul, John Mark returned from Jerusalem

(continued on other side)

Sharpening the Focus of the Church (continued)

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Acts 13:1-3 A worship session that changed the world

People

Prophets: _____ of God's truth

Teachers: _____ of God's truth

Variety of ethnicities, social standing (13:1)

Participation

Worshiping: _____ the worthiness of God

Setting aside the normal activities of life

Fasting: _____ to hear from the Spirit

Putting off the normal appetites of the flesh

_____ by the Holy Spirit

"Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (13:2)

_____ to the Holy Spirit

Fasting

Praying

Laid on hands

Sent them off (13:3)

Immediate _____ Acts 13:4-12

Ministry in Cyprus

Saul becomes _____

_____ becomes the leader

What preparation are you making to be able to hear from the Holy Spirit?

Are you able to identify the Holy Spirit's call upon your life?

How are you participating in the great purpose of God?

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The **church** is the most important institution in the world.
Therefore we need to seek to clearly understand the church.

Jerusalem Church: the **mother** church

Antioch Church: the first **“model”** church

Acts 13:1-3 brings the church into a very clear **focus**.

Backstory: Acts 11:19-30

Antioch--third largest city

Jew and Gentile **believers**

A great number **turned** to the Lord

Barnabas--sent by the **Jerusalem** church

Saul--brought by **Barnabas** from Tarsus

Instruction--taught a great many people

--first called **Christians**

Relief work--trip to Jerusalem

Acts 12 summary

James dead (brother of John)

Peter released

James--Jerusalem church leader (half-brother of Jesus)

Herod dead

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Sharpening the Focus of the Church (continued)

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Acts 13:1-3 A worship session that changed the world

People

Prophets: **Proclaimers** of God's truth

Teachers: **Explainers** of God's truth

Variety of ethnicities, social standing (13:1)

Participation

Worshipping: **Declaring** the worthiness of God

Setting aside the normal activities of life

Fasting: **Seeking** to hear from the Spirit

Putting off the normal appetites of the flesh

Proclamation by the Holy Spirit

“Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” (13:2)

Response to the Holy Spirit

Fasting

Praying

Laid on hands

Sent them off (13:3)

Immediate **results** Acts 13:4-12

Ministry in Cyprus

Saul becomes **Paul**

Paul becomes the leader

What preparation are you making to be able to hear from the Holy Spirit?

Are you able to identify the Holy Spirit's call upon your life?

How are you participating in the great purpose of God?