

Making a Difference in 2012

Part 3: Missions

Acts 12:25-13:5

How can we make a difference through missions?

1. Be Outwardly Focused

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

- Before we can be used by the Lord to make a difference, we must get the focus off of “self” and our selfish needs and onto others and the ways God might use us to bless them.

Then [Jesus] said to them all: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”
Luke 9:23

- Jesus doesn’t save us to sit. He saves us to go.

2. Be Holy Spirit Led

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. Acts 13:2-3

How can we be led by the Holy Spirit?

- a. **Worship:** asserting the Lordship of Christ and the submission of self.
- b. **The Word:** hearing God speak to you through the Bible, teaching and preaching.
- c. **Prayer:** Jesus taught us that the first priorities in prayer are to
 - 1) praise the Father (“*hallowed be your name*” Matt. 6:9),
 - 2) seek His Kingdom expansion (“*your kingdom come*”),
 - 3) seek His will (“*your will be done on earth*”),
 - 4) present your requests (“*Give us this day our daily bread*”).
- d. **Fasting:** where we forgo something in order to focus our attention on saying “Yes” to the Lord.

3. **Be Corporately Connected**

“... taking with them John, also called Mark. ... While they were worshipping the Lord So after they fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. ... When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God John was with them as their helper.” Acts 12:25; 13:2-5

Barnabas, Paul, and John Mark were:

- a. **Called Out:** Part of your mission is to seek out others to go on mission.train/equip/prepare others for missions.
- b. **Decked Out:** through the Holy Spirit and the church, they were trained/equipped/prepared for missions.
- c. **Sent Out:** They had the support and protection of the Antioch church.