

Sending to Global Frontiers

Today will be a little different:

- Break from Matthew... though material is very connected
- Long-term mission/strategy as a church (onboard and invested)
- I'll be speaking; sharing a video or two; inviting up Amber our Global Missions Director

Reality is a Sending Church:

- **Locally** as sent-people
- **Strategically** with church planting
- **Globally** through missions

In the last 10 years we have sent about 240 missionaries to 44 different countries

As we have been sharing for the better part of the last year, we want to narrow the focus now—concentrate the resources—to preach the Gospel where it has not been heard before

- Unreached and unengaged people groups
- **Matthew 24:14**, NASB
- **Romans 15:20-21**, NLT
 - I want to give you a little more detail about what Paul is talking about here when he refers to "**the plan spoken of in the Scriptures**"
 - Play video 1 (*The Biblical Basis for Missions*); **duration = 6:27**

"What part will you play?" (The Video)

- We want to play a part... don't you?
 - Indo (**not going**) and The Arabian Peninsula
- We are trying to be a faithful sending/missionary church together (caught up with God in His work)

In Acts 13 we encounter the church in Antioch that was also caught up with God in His work

- The church in Antioch **took seriously** the call to the Unreached
- They were **compelled by the Spirit** to take the Gospel to those without opportunity to hear

Acts 13:1-3 (NASB)

1 Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: **Barnabas**, and **Simeon** who was called Niger, and **Lucius** of Cyrene, and **Manaen** who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and **Saul**. **2** While they were ministering to 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, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

A work of the Holy Spirit and a church's obedience

- 5 leaders who were seeking the Lord and God uses them to start a missionary movement
- They were **UNITED** in responding to the Holy Spirit's call to reach the unreached
- **Both** those who would **SEND** and those who would **GO**, had **Holy Spirit unction**
 - For Paul, this was not a new call (Acts 9:15; Acts 22:21) (already sent)
 - The Holy Spirit was revealing that **some would go** and **some would send** for a new work, **FROM** the work there (in Antioch)
 - It was a call on the Church **to be a sending church**
 - **Simeon, Lucius, Manaen** (senders) -- **Paul and Barnabas** (goers)

So, we see, the Antioch Church joyfully released resources for the spread of the Gospel beyond their immediate context—and for the Unreached.

- Sending Churches know "sending" is GAINING, not losing (we know this through our Church Plants)

The Church in Antioch was founded after Gentiles, received the Holy Spirit and began spreading the Gospel

- Acts 11:20-21, NASB

Barnabas was sent to the church in Antioch from Jerusalem and confirmed that Gentiles were being saved

- Acts 11:22-26, NASB

Very likely, Simeon, Lucias and Manaen were part of that initial movement

- They were already a part of a radical move of God in their immediate location - Antioch.
- God was doing something amazing and historical right there **(wasn't that enough?)**
- They could have just focused on their own needs (small group in a big city)

But the Spirit, and Antioch leaders were eager to expand that and **be a part of God's global movement!**

- So instead they invest heavily in sending to unreached gentiles (in the form of leaders)
 - They were **set apart** and **sent** (released into the work)
 - Their mission orders were changed, **without a sense of competition** in the body
 - Paul and Barnabas were deeply invested in the church in Antioch... (not me)
 - But sending them to a new work was seen as **gain**—not loss
 - By the end of the 4th C. Antioch was the 3rd largest city in the Roman Empire
 - **And the Christian population had grown to about 100,000 (nearly half city), with staff and leaders in the 100's¹**
 - **I.e. They thrived when they gave and sent and many went**
 - It was a spiritual act of obedience
 - The church in Antioch sought the will of God and implemented it **(much fruit!)**

The community of God is like a city in a hill.

- In Matthew 5:14 Jesus says, "**You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.**"
- **A Light that burns brightest when near means it will also shine the farthest away²**
- You cannot separate **this nature in the church**- to bring the light of the kingdom here **and** to those who are culturally distant.

BRITT INVITES AMBER UP AT THIS TIME

Amber speaks... (**KEYNOTE TEAM:** See the material Amber has sent you in her notes for this section please)

AMBER INTRODUCES PETER RUSSELL who then shares a testimony about breakthrough in prayer

BRITT RETURNS WHEN PETER IS DONE

What can you do?

- Perspectives Class
- Pray
 - What is your part? (goer/sender)
 - As a part of our church's work (prayer events, etc)
 - **2 Thessalonians 3:1**, NASB
 - 100 people committed to prayer for sending our first team into a new region
 - Looking for prayer leaders & prayer mobilizes (c. desk or globalmissions@realitycarp.com)

¹ <http://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/mega-ministers.html>

² McLean, Archibald. *Where the Book Speaks, Or, Mission Studies in the Bible.* p. 98