

Series: "Church of Antioch: The Church that God will Use"

CHURCH AT ANTIOCH WAS GREATLY USED BY GOD / CHURCH HE COULD USE

REASONS WHY: Did Not Fear CHANGE / Gossip the Gospel / Encourage
Teachable / Generous / Hated by the World / Leaders / Worship

THERE ARE CHURCHES GOD CANNOT USE / SOME BIG AND THRIVING
NOT CLOSED TO THE WORLD BUT ABANDONED BY GOD

Rev 2:4,5 JESUS TOLD THE CHURCH IN EPHESUS

You have forsaken your first love. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

TAKE HOME AND PRAYERFULLY READ INSERT - "Church God Cannot Use"

ANTIOCH WAS A CHURCH WHICH LOOKED BEYOND ITSELF
SAW GOD TAKE A SMALL EFFORT OF FEW CHRISTIANS
AND LAUNCH A WORLD MOVEMENT - THRIVING CHURCH & WORLD MISSION

Missionary to Mexico - Cameron Townsend - Remote Indian village
WANTED TO TRANSLATE BIBLE INTO LANGUAGE OF THIS POOR INDIAN TRIBE
Gov't Officer "As long as I am in office, the Bible will never be translated into the Indian
languages - it would only upset them"

TOWNSEND PRAYED - SUPPORTERS PRAYED - DOOR NEVER OPENED
DECIDED TO LIVE AMONG THESE PEOPLE AND WAIT ON THE LORD

discovered a fountain of clear spring water sprang up in town
water simply ran down the hill unused

TOWNSEND ENCOURAGED PEOPLE TO PLANT GARDENS AROUND THIS SPRING
SOON GREW 2X's AS MUCH FOOD - ECONOMY GREW

Townsend wrote article about this for small Mexican paper

Article eventually seen by President of Mexico

SHOCKED GRINGO WOULD LIVE WHERE NO MEXICAN WOULD EVEN LIVE
PRESIDENT IN LIMOUSINE MOTORCADE DROVE DOWN TO SEE TOWNSEND
PRES. TO TOWNSEND "Of course, you can translate the Scriptures"

BEGAN - Lifetime friendship Townsend + President Cardenas

AND work of Wycliffe Bible Translators

OUTREACH STRUCTURE OF BOOK OF ACTS

Acts 1:8 Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

THIS CHAPTER BRINGS US TO THAT LAST STEP - ends of the earth

SCENE - CHURCH OF ANTIOCH IN WORSHIP / AT THE POWER CENTER
DWELLING IN THE HEAVENLY PRESENCE OF THE LIVING, ALMIGHTY GOD

1. Call of the Spirit

a. Fervent Worship

v. 2 "While they were worshipping the Lord"

THIS WAS MUCH MORE THAN AN EMPTY RITUAL / FEARFUL ENCOUNTER

DOMINANT THEME OF CHURCH IN ACTS - AWESOME EXPERIENCE

WHEN THE CHURCH GATHERED AFTER THE HARVEST OF SOULS ON PENTECOST
Acts 2:43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

WHEN THE CRIPPLED BEGGAR WAS HEALED AT THE BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE GATE
Acts 3:10 they were filled with wonder and amazement

WHEN CHURCH PRAYED AFTER THE RELEASE OF PETER & JOHN FROM PRISON
Acts 4:31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

5:11 Great fear seized the whole church

9:31 the church..grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord

Acts 10:35 GOD accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.

Acts 19:17 they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor.

SIMILAR EXPERIENCE OF PROPHET Isaiah 6:1-2 I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted...(AND THE ANGELS SANG) "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." {4} At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. {5} "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."

THE POINT IS THAT WORSHIP DEMANDS OUR FULL ATTENTION / OUR BEST
COMING BEFORE GOD SHOULD NEVER BE TAKEN LIGHTLY

b. Faithful Witness

v. 2 "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul"

ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH WOULD AFFECT THEM ALL / IMPACT ENTIRE CHURCH

AS WE DRAW CLOSER TO JESUS/ SEEK HIS PURPOSE IN OUR LIFE & CHURCH
THEY HAD LEARNED FROM HIM WHAT HIS PURPOSE WAS - AND STILL IS!!

Acts 1:8b and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

HE CALLS US TODAY LIKE HE CALLED ISAIAH / 700 yrs. before Jesus
Isa 6.8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

GOD HAD ALREADY CALLED PAUL TO BE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES
Acts 9:15 the Lord said "This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

ŠNOW GOD ENLISTS BARNABAS TO PARTNER WITH PAUL IN THIS MISSION

ANTIOCH WAS A MISSION FIELD - NEWLY FOUNDED - ALSO A MISSION BASE
easily have said, we have too much to do, cannot think of others

SHARING GOOD NEWS WAS WAY OF LIFE - GOSSIPED THE GOSPEL
KNEW EVERYONE IN ANTIOCH AND WHOLE WORLD NEEDS JESUS
THIS MADE THEM OPEN TO HEARING THE MISSIONARY CALL OF HOLY SPIRIT

SACRIFICE -2 OF THEIR MOST GIFTED TEACHERS - OFF ON MAD EXCURSION

MICHAEL GREEN "Is there not an important lesson here? We shall be fired to evangelism in our own locality in proportion as we are willing to neglect our own needs and look to needier places overseas which we can support. It is the church which waters others that is herself watered. But how few churches seem to believe this."

NOTHING INVIGORATES LOCAL CHURCH MORE THAN SENDING MISSIONARIES
SO THAT WE FELL A DIRECT LINK TO THE NATIONS & WORLD MISSION
Pastor Dan Lorenzo - HMC sent young lady to France / EXCITED

EXCUSES OFTEN GIVEN

"We give money to missions, isn't that enough?"

"We cannot send Bill, he is need to work in our church"

"Don't those other countries over there have their own religion?"

IF ANTIOCH HAD MADE THOSE EXCUSES - GOSPEL NEVER COME TO HAWAII

HEART SPARKED BY JOY OF WORSHIP / BECAMES AFLAME FOR MISSIONS
Psalms 67:3-4 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. {4} May the nations be glad and sing for joy

2. Commissioning the Servants

a. Balance MISSIONARY THRUST WAS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1:8a you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;

COMMISSIONING AGENT? - BOTH Holy Spirit and the Church
v 3 "they sent them off/v 4 sent on their way by the Holy Spirit"
v. 4 "sent off" = RELEASE / DISMISS

BALANCE - Spirit sent them, by telling Church to do so
Church sent them, because told to do so by Spirit

BALANCE IS HEALTHY CORRECTIVE TO TWO OPPOSITE EXTREMES

INDIVIDUALISM - Xtian "lead by God" w/out affirmation of Church
PERSONAL CHOICE IS NOT TO BE DENIED -
ONLY SAFE AND HEALTHY IN RELATION TO THE SPIRIT AND THE CHURCH
people make so many decisions w/ no Pastoral counsel or covering

INSTITUTIONALISM - all decisions made by Church w/out Holy Spirit
Responsibility of Church to be Spirit led in all its decisions

GOD IS AT WORK IN US SO THAT WE MIGHT WORK
Philippians 2:12-13 continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, {13} for it is
God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

BALANCED MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Inward Call to the Worker
Outward Confirmation by Church
Commissioning by the Church
Sending by Holy Spirit

MODERN MISSION BOARD IS SENDING AGENCY - EXPEDITES WORK OF CHURCH

b. Blessing ONE OF MAIN THEME OF SCRIPTURE - FROM ABRAHAM FORWARD

WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING - BLESSINGS TO GIVE AWAY
WHEN WE TRY TO HORDE THE BLESSINGS OF GOD WE LOOSE THEM ALL

Psalm 67:1,2 May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that
your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

MISSION TEAM VISITED 6 CITIES W/ GOD'S GREAT BLESSING

RETURNED BACK TO ANTIOCH

Acts 14:21-28 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples.
Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, {22} strengthening the disciples and
encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the
kingdom of God," they said. {23} Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church

TWO FOLD PRIORITY 1) Preach Word 2) Organize Churches / Elders
FOCUS ON KEY CITIES - Relied on converts to take gospel to rural

FIRST MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

{26} From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. {27} On arriving there, they gathered the church • together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. {28} And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

CHURCH HAD A MISSIONARY BANQUET

DEACON ASKED TO SIT NEXT TO AFRICAN WHO CAME TO ATTEND
DID NOT REALLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO AFRICAN

Chicken dinner was served / as they ate Deacon said to African
"Chomp, Chomp, good huh?"

Later they were served a delicious cup of coffee - Deacon said, "Glug, glug, good huh?"

SPEAKER FOR NIGHT INTRODUCED - HAPPENED TO BE THIS AFRICAN MAN

HELD DEGREE FROM OXFORD AND SPOKE IN IMPECCABLE ENGLISH

after the meeting African found the Deacon and said to him

"Blab, blab, good huh?"

CHURCH LEADER "I don't care how much money you want for missions"

"JUST DON'T MAKE ME LISTEN TO MISSIONARIES SPEAK"

He would NOT have like this Conference in Antioch

GOD CENTERED REPORT - His grace empowered them / Reached Others

PAUL & BARNABAS DID ALL THIS WITH NO MODERN CONVENIENCES

NO SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY / NO HUGE BUDGET

EMPOWERED AND EQUIPPED BY AN AWESOME GOD "all God had done"

BOB PIERCE "Others have done so much with so little,
we have done so little with so much"

TO WHOM MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN / MUCH WILL BE REQUIRED

3. Care of the Saints

TWO SHORT LETTERS OF THE APOSTLE JOHN - Companion Letters

2 John - don't entertain false teachers

NOT SLAM DOOR ON JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES / DON'T LET THEM IN PULPIT

DON'T LET THEM INTO LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH WHICH MEETS IN HOUSE

3 John - don't neglect to support faithful teachers

WORDS OF APOSTLE JOHN - to Gaius / unknown, common name then

- John heard heartbeat of Jesus as he leaned on His breast

- he listened with his own ears as Jesus gave Great Commission

WHAT IS IT THAT MAKES THIS OLD MAN OF GOD HAPPY?

3 John 3} It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. {4} I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

IT IS BECAUSE HE WALKS IN THE TRUTH THAT:

v. 2 your soul is getting along well.

WHAT WAS EVIDENCE OF GAIUS "walking in the truth"?

THE WAY HE TREATED GOD'S SERVANTS - brothers who were strangers
preachers, missionaries, traveling evangelists

{5} Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. {6} They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. {7} It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. {8} We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

a. Sending "in a manner worthy of God"

THE NAME OF GOD IS AT STAKE IN THE WAY WE TREAT HIS SERVANTS

WHEN WE HEAR OF SOMEONE GOING OUT TO PREACH THE GOSPEL
DO WE GIVE THEM LESS MONEY THAN WE SPEND ON A NIGHT OF MOVIES

THAT IS WHY WE HAVE A MISSIONARY APARTMENT - LEAST WE COULD DO

WHEN MISSIONARIES COME THROUGH ON FURLOUGH WE HONOR THEM IN X

10% OF BUDGET FOR MISSIONS - SHOULD GROW A % EVERY YEAR

AMERICANS SPEND MORE ON PET FOOD 3 OR 4 TIMES / THAN MISSIONS

GREATEST SUPPORT WE COULD POSSIBLE OFFER IS OUR PRAYERS

"send on one's way" / phrase used 9 X's in New Testament

EACH TIME USED IN A MISSIONARY CONTEXT

Titus 3:13 Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need.

DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN SO THEY HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED

"sending them out well" IS VITAL TO OUR SPIRITUAL WELLBEING

SEE PEOPLE WITH JOY - REACHING FAMILIES & FRIENDS FOR CHRIST

THEY HONOR GOD AND HIS WORKERS / YOUR KINGDOM COME ON EARTH!!

Psa 105:15-16 "Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm." THEY DID SO AND THIS WAS THE RESULT {16} He called down famine on the land and destroyed all their supplies of food;

APOSTLE JOHN LISTS THE BLESSING OF SERVING THE SERVANTS OF GOD

v. 2 "your soul getting along well"

v. 4 "walking in the truth"

v. 8 We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

v. 6 "send them on their way in a manner worthy of God"

Mt 25:40 King JESUS SAID, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

b. Going "for the sake of the name"

SENDING AND GOING ARE INTIMATELY RELATED / BOTH FOR GOD'S GLORY

TEXT: WE ARE ONLY TO SUPPORT ONLY THOSE WHO GO OUT IN THE NAME - •
NOT MENTIONED - NAME WHICH IS THE TRUTH - way, truth, & life

Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

WHEN WE GIVE TO HELP OTHERS - VITAL NEEDS - WILL THEY GET SAVED?
WILL THEY HEAR ABOUT JESUS?!

APOSTLE PAUL DESCRIBES HIS CALL TO MINISTRY

Romans 1:5 Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

Philippians 2:10-11 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, { 11 } and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

HERE IS ONE OF BEST DEFINITIONS OF A MISSIONARY IN THE BIBLE

one who goes out for the sake of the Name
MATERIAL GAIN IS NOT THE MOTIVE "no help from the pagans"
GLORY OF GOD AND HIS NAME IS THE PASSION

WE MAY BE GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF GOING OR OF SENDING

BOTH ARE ESSENTIAL TO GOD'S WORLD PURPOSE

NOT TO EXALT EITHER THE SENDER OR THE GOER - BUT GOD & GOD ALONE

1 Corinthians 3:5-8 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task. { 6 } I planted the seed,

Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. {7} So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

WHETHER WE GO OR SEND OR BOTH - WE'RE CALLED TO BE WORLD XTIAN

WORLD CHRISTIAN - someone who is so gripped by the glory of God and His global purpose, that they choose to live their life to as a soldier of the Cross of Christ

IN LONG BEACH HARBOR LIES THE QUEEN MARY - famous luxury liner
THE FIRST CLASS STATE ROOMS ARE DECORATED WITH ELEGANCE
FROM THICK, PLUSH CARPET TO THE PRECIOUS CHANDELIER
TABLES SET WITH LINEN, STERLING SILVER, AND CRYSTAL
BEDS AND FURNITURE ARE THE FINEST AVAILABLE

WALK DOWN THE HALLWAY OF GREAT SHIP AND SEE A STARK CONTRAST
ROOMS AS THEY WERE FITTED TO BE TROOP SHIP DURING WORLD WAR 2
SIMPLE BUNKS STACKED HIGH TO THE CEILING
TIN CUTLERY STREWN ACROSS A METAL EATING TRAY / VERY BASIC

ARRANGEMENT WAS JUST FINE THANKS, THERE'S A WORLD-WAR ON!!
PICTURE OF A WORLD CHRISTIAN - SOLDIER OF THE CROSS
WE'LL HAVE ETERNITY TO RIDE THE LUXURY CRUISERS