

"We Need More F.A.T.S.O.S."

Acts 11:25-26

Series: "Church in Antioch: The Church that God Can Use"

WE NEED MORE F.A.T.S.O.S. dangerous statement for Pastor to make
NOT MAKING A STATEMENT ABOUT PHYSICAL CONDITION

LAST WEEK - Means of Growth "Gossip the Gospel"

THESE UNLICENSED, UNORDAINED, UNKNOWN CHRISTIANS PREACHED
HAD NOT MATURED TO POINT OF FORGETTING TO SHARE ABOUT JESUS
HAD NOT FOSSILIZED LIKE A RIGID INSTITUTION OR A DEAD TRADITION

WHEN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL IN THE POWER OF SPIRIT - THINGS HAPPEN
Acts 11:24 a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

NEED IN MATERNITY WARD - FEED THOSE NEWBORNS!

1 Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in
your salvation,

WHEN BARNABAS SAW GREAT NUMBERS OF ANTIOCHANS COMING TO CHRIST
HE KNEW THEY NEEDED TO BE TAUGHT IN THEIR FAITH

JESUS LEFT THE CHURCH WITH THIS CLEAR PRIORITY

Matt 28:19 go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them.. and teaching them to obey
everything I have commanded you."

1. Message they Devoured

a. Body Life BORN AGAIN INTO A CHRISTIAN FAMILY - RELATIONSHIPS

Acts 11:24-25 a great number of people were brought to the Lord. {25} Then Barnabas went to
Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch.

BARNABAS - ON SCOUTING MISSION FOR APOSTLES IN JERUSALEM
WAS THRILLED WITH WORK OF GOD HE SAW / KNEW THEY NEED TEACHING
SHOWED WISDOM AND SENSITIVITY THAT HE WAS SENT TO SHARE W/ THEM

NO ONE CHRISTIAN LEADER IS REPOSITORY OF ALL SPIRITUAL GIFTS
THE ONLY ONE PERSON THAT HAS IT ALL IS CALLED GOD

EVERY PAUL NEEDS A BARNABAS / NO BARNABAS, NO PAUL
Acts 9:26-27 ABOUT 10 YEARS EARLIER - When (PAUL) came to Jerusalem, he tried to
join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.
{27} But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.

BARNABAS HAD INTRODUCED DANGEROUS SAUL TO THE APOSTLES

NOW - PERHAPS 10 YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THAT INTRODUCTION
WHEN BARNABAS SAW GENTILES RECEIVING THE LORD

HE KNEW THIS WAS A TASK FOR THE APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

PLUG FOR NETWORK - Spiritual Gifts / Passion / Personal Style

EVER HAD FEELINGS HURT AFTER GIVING SOMEONE A GIFT
THEY NEVER USE IT - RETURN IT TO STORE - SHOW LITTLE APPRECIATION
SO THE LORD MUST FEEL WHEN WE NEGLECT THE GIFTS HE'S GIVEN US
BY CONTRAST - JOY WE FEEL WHEN GIFTS WE GIVE ARE USED & ENJOYED
PARENTS GAVE NEW VOLKSWAGEN AFTER GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE

BARNABAS WAS NURTURED IN AN INTER-DEPENDENT FELLOWSHIP

Acts 4:32-37 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. {33} With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all...{36} Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), {37} sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

1Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms

1 Corinthians 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

D.L. MOODY "It is better to put ten men to work than to do the work of ten men"

b. Biblical Teaching IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE APOSTOLIC MESSAGE

Acts 11:26 So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching... Everyone was filled with awe...And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

CHRISTIAN FAITH IS A RELATIONSHIP - DEEPENED BY KNOWLEDGE OF WORD

CHALLENGE: SIMPLE GOSPEL IS VERY PROFOUND / COMPLEX APPLICATION
GOSPEL IS SIMPLE BUT IT IS NOT SIMPLISTIC

UNNAMED & UNKNOWN DISCIPLES CAME TO WORLD-CLASS, WORLDLY CITY
THEY WERE QUICK TO SHARE FAITH - YET, NOT ALL MOUTH AND NO MIND
THEY HAD BOTH HEAD AND HEART

NEEDS -

- 1) HOW TO PRESENT GOSPEL IN A HOSTILE WORLD
- 2) HOW TO UNDERSTAND AND REFUTE FALSE TEACHING, esp. Cults
- 3) HOW TO APPLY GOSPEL TO COMPLEX MORAL QUESTIONS OF THE DAY
medical ethics: same-sex marriage, euthanasia, abortion, environment, economics, politics, nationalism, sovereignty

THREE AREAS OF TRAINING NEEDED

1) Biblical Studies

BEGINNING WITH PERSONAL BIBLE READING AND STUDY daily study Bible, devotional, sermon notes, Sunday School, Ohana

2) Specific Topics Evangelism, Ministry, Doctrines

ANTIOCH: What is Xtian's relationship to Law of Moses? Temple?

What will they do about Mosaic dietary laws? Sabbath?

How to live out Lordship of Jesus under rule of Lord Caesar

How to be free in Christ while remaining a slave of men

3) Doing Ministry - Practical, "hands on" Education

NEED NEW BIRTH - NEW MIND - NEW SOCIETY

WAY OF LEARNING TO PRESENT GOSPEL IN MONTROSE

STOOD AND PRAYED, LISTENED, A LITTLE AT A TIME

Accountability, and Growing in Responsibility

"to whom much is given, much will be required"

JOHN STOTT "They must have taught about Christ, making sure that the converts knew both the facts & the significance of his life, death, resurrection, exaltation, Spirit-gift, present reign, & future coming. The word Christ was constantly on their lips"

SERVANT OF CHRIST NEEDS TO AIM FOR THE HEAD - TEACHING

Romans 6:17 you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

HEAD INFORMED OF CHRIST - HEART TRANSFORMED BY CHRIST-
WILL CONFORMED TO CHRIST

Titus 1:1 knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

2. Maturity they Developed

a. Faithful - to God, His Word, and to the Leadership

1 Corinthians 4:2 Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

PICTURE OF FAITHFULNESS SEEN IN EXCAVATION OF CITY OF POMPEII

ANCIENT ROMAN CITY DESTROYED BY ERUPTION OF MT. VESUVIUS

people found buried through out entire city, homes, streets

Where was Roman sentinel found? Standing at Gate, holding weapon

GOD CALLS US TO FAITHFULNESS EVEN AS HE REMAINS FAITHFUL

Deut 7:9 Know that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God

Deut 32:4 He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright & just is he.

Heb 3:6 Christ is faithful as a son over God's house.

Revelation 1:5 Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness

Psalms 25:10 All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant.

Psalms 146:6 the LORD, who remains faithful forever.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

ONE OF GREATEST KENTUCKY DERBY WINNERS HORSE NAMED "Secretariat"
each quarter mile of the race was run faster than quarter before

Nehemiah 9:7,8 "Abraham. You found his heart faithful to you, and made a covenant with him

Numbers 12:7 Moses; he is faithful in all my house.

Eph 1:1 the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus

Col 1:2 the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse

Colossians 1:7 Epaphras...a faithful minister of Christ

WHAT GOD IS LOOKING FOR IS FOR US TO BE FAITHFUL
NOT ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL BY WORLD'S MEASUREMENT OF SUCCESS
SINCE GOD IS THE FAITHFUL ONE - HE GRANTS ULTIMATE VICTORY

CAN WE MEASURE OUR FAITHFULNESS BY STANDARDS OF OUR DAILY LIFE?

if car starts once every 3 times, is it reliable?

if paperboy skips your house every week or so is he trustworthy?

if you fail to go to work twice a week, are you a loyal employee?

if your refrigerator stops for a day of 2, is that O.K.?

if you miss a loan payment, does the bank say, "well, 10 out of 12 is good enough?"

If you fail to worship God 1 or 2 Sundays a month,
are you a faithful Christian?

IF YOU WERE JUST A VOLUNTEER, ANYTHING IS GOOD ENOUGH
WE ARE NOT VOLUNTEERS, WE ARE BONDSLAVES OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

2 Tim 2:13 if we are faithless, he will remain faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.

WE HEAR THAT VERSE AND TEND TO MISUNDERSTAND IT
WE ARE FAITHLESS - GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL - NO WORRIES
GO AHEAD AND LIVE LIKE HELL BECAUSE HE HAS PROMISED US HEAVEN
WARNING - GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL TO HIS THREATS TO FAITHLESS

Psalms 31:23 The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.

2 Samuel 22:26,27 "To the faithful you show yourself faithful... but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd.

WORD OF CONSOLATION AND COMFORT

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Revelation 2:10 Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Matthew 25:23 "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

1 Thes 5:24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

b. Available to God in the use of time and opportunities

JESUS IS A GENTLEMAN WHO WAITS FOR US TO SHOW SOME INITIATIVE
NOT THE BIG BAD WOLF WHO HUFFS AND PUFFS AND BLOWS HOUSE DOWN
HE STANDS AT THE DOOR AND KNOCKS WAITING TO BE INVITED IN

Exodus 35:29 All the Israelite men and women who were willing brought to the LORD freewill offerings for all the work the LORD

1 Chron 28:9 DAVID: "And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.

1 Chronicles 29:5 BUILDING OF TEMPLE Now, who is willing to consecrate himself today to the LORD?"

1 Chr 29:9 The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely & wholeheartedly to the LORD.

FAITHFULLY AVAILABLE - NOT JUST SEASONAL - PERIODICALLY - ALWAYS

PRAYER WE NEED TO PRAY OFTEN

Psalms 51:12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

ISRAEL WAS GIVEN A MARVELOUS OPPORTUNITY: If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land; Isa 1:19

YET THEY REFUSED ALL THAT GOD GRACIOUSLY OFFERED IN CHRIST

Luke 13:34 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

1 Peter 5:2 Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers--not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be

c. **Teachable** by the Leaders, circumstances, and the Spirit

v. 26 for a whole year they met and were taught

HUNGERED FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Psalm 119:47 I delight in your commands because I love them.

Acts 13:48-49 the Gentiles...were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed. {49} The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

Acts 19:9 Paul...had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

EQUIVALENT OF 3 - 40 MINUTE SERMONS WEEKLY - for 50 years

d. **Sound** - in New Testament Christianity, doctrine and doing

1 Timothy 1:10 the sound doctrine

1 Timothy 6:3 the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ

2 Timothy 1:13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 3:21 My son, preserve sound judgment and discernment, do not let them out of your sight;

Proverbs 4:2 I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching.

Proverbs 22:21 teaching you true and reliable words, so that you can give sound answers

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. **LIKE A TONY ROBBINS INFOCOMMERCIAL**

Titus 1:9 **CHURCH LEADER:** encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

1:13 rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith

Titus 2:1 You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.

Titus 2:2 Teach the older men to be...sound in faith

IN ONE PEANUTS CARTOON - Lucy & Linus looking out Window - RAIN!!

Lucy: "Look at that rain, what if it rains so hard the whole world floods"

Linus: "That will never happen, Genesis 9 says God put the rainbow in the sky to promise He'll never flood the earth again"

Lucy: "You've taken a great load off my mind"

Linus: "Sound theology has a way of doing that"

e. **Outgoing** - in social skills, so as to maximize gospel impact

SAYING - CANNOT JUDGE BOOK BY ITS COVER - SAD, PEOPLE DO
OUR SOCIETY - IMAGE IS EVERYTHING - WHY CLINTON AHEAD IN POLLS

WE SHOULD PRESENT AN IMAGE OF CHRIST - WITH INTEGRITY

Titus 2:9-12 Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, {10} and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.

MAHATMA GANDHI to a group of Christian missionaries in India

"You work so hard work so hard at it. Just remember the rose never invites anyone to smell it. If it is fragrant, people will walk across the garden and endure the thorns to smell it"

2 Cor 2:14-15 thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. {15} For we are to God the aroma of Christ

PEOPLE NEED TO SEE CHRIST AND SMELL HIM IN OUR LIVES

f. **Spirit-led** - in development of character and obedience to Jesus

Acts 11:16 you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

11:24 BARNABAS He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit

IMPORTANCE OF BEING TOGETHER - IN PERSON NOT PROXY - SEEK HIM

EARLY CHURCH - Scripture, Testimony, Prayer, and Sharing:

Acts 15:28 It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us

Jude 1:20 build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:14 those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

THIS ACRONYM OF FATSOS WOULD BE A GOOD DESCRIPTION OF ANTIOCHANS

3. Master they Displayed

WHEN PEOPLE SEE THE FATSOS THEY SAY - "hey, those are Christians"

"The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."

NOT JUST BRANCH OF JUDAISM / ONE NEW MAN IN CHRIST - Jew & Gentile

IF CHURCH NOT FORMED IN ANTIOCH - "The Way" JEWISH SPLINTER GROUP

FORMATION OF NEW MISSION CHURCH AT ANTIOCH -
CHALLENGE TO INSTITUTIONALISM - NO CHANCE TO BECOME ENTRENCHED
WORK OF JESUS - ALWAYS ON THE MOVE - ON THE CUTTING EDGE

PROBLEM WITH HAILI - 175 YRS. - FORGET OUR FIRST LOVE - JESUS
PRIMARY MISSION - SHARE THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST
TOO BUSY MAINTAINING INSTITUTION AND PRESERVING TRADITIONS

a. Given in Shame ANTIOCHANS SNICKERED AND GAVE THEM NICKNAME

"The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch."

THE PARTY OF THIS LITTLE CHRIST / CRUCIFIED NAZARENE

MORE THAN JUST A LABEL TO PUT ON HOSPITAL ADMISSION FORM
"well, I'm not a Buddhist, I must be a Christian!!"

LABEL THEY HAD TO PAY TO WEAR - with blood, sweat, tears

Acts 5:41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

Revelation 2:3 You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.

Revelation 2:13 I know where you live--where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name.

Revelation 3:8 I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name

PREACHED OF HIM - LIVED FOR HIM - WORKED FOR HIM - DIED FOR HIM
DISCIPLES AT ANTIOCH WERE CONSUMED WITH PASSION FOR CHRIST

MICHAEL GREEN "There is nothing so attractive in the world as a life where Jesus is dominant. And those in whom He is dominant will not be ashamed to give the glory where it is due, and so to speak of their Lord, however haltingly and shyly. That is the supreme secret of and evangelistic church - A CHURCH GOD CAN USE - one that has a single passion - only Jesus."

b. Worn in Honor

Acts 4:13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

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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."

2:21 everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Revelation 3:12 Him who overcomes...I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name.

Revelation 22:4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.