

CALLED OUT To A Mission

Matt Garvin



His church has a mission

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8 NIV

As God reveals Himself to us we often experience a crisis of belief that calls for major adjustments in our lives so that we can relate to Him and His mission. As we make the adjustments and obey Him, He moves us into the middle of His activity, in order to experience Him and to enjoy the astounding experience of being on mission with God.

~ Henry T Blackaby and Avery T Willis, Jr.

CALLLED OUT

a journey through the book of ACTS

April 26
2015

God is at work outside of our boxes

News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Acts 11:22-24 NIV

Connecting deeply with a _____ is an essential part of the journey

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 11:25-26 NIV

_____ is often an important part of us working out our personal mission

During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.) The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea. This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 11:27-30 NIV

We discover our mission _____

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

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping 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 12:25-13:3 NIV

As we discover our mission we discover we need _____

Thus, on the one hand, the structure we call the New Testament church is a prototype of all subsequent Christian fellowships where old and young, male and female are gathered together as normal biological families in aggregate.

On the other hand, Paul's missionary band can be considered a prototype of all subsequent missionary endeavors organized out of committed, experienced workers who affiliated themselves in task-oriented communities as a second decision beyond membership in the first structure.

~ Ralph Winter

The rest of the book of Acts is an outworking of the individual mission of the Apostle Paul as an expression of the bigger mission of the church as an expression of the ultimate mission of God.

The end of the book of Acts is clearly not the end of the story

For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

Acts 28:30-31 NIV

Where are you on the journey to working out your place in God's mission?

- ☐ Getting to know Jesus
- ☐ Finding a church family
- ☐ Serving in the church while you discern your mission
- ☐ Discovering the work to which you are called
- ☐ Finding fellowship in the Calling

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

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1. What were the main things that stood out to you from Pastor Matt's sermon?
2. Howard A. Snyder said "Mission is about the kingdom of God as announced, embodied, effected, and sovereignly guided by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit." How is this different or the same to what you understood mission to be?
3. Pastor Matt indicated that often God's plan is worked out in the context of suffering. What do you think about this? How has this been true in your life?
4. As we come to Jesus he engages with us as individuals, in a unique way. How has this been true for you?
5. Paul needed Barnabas to clear the way for him to connect with the Apostles in Acts 9:26-27. Have there been people who cleared the way for you? Are there people around you that you could help on their journey?
6. Antioch is a long way from Jerusalem both geographically and culturally. Have there been times when God is calling you out of your "normal"? Share some of those moments
7. Pastor Matt pointed out that Paul discovered his calling in the context of a community who discovered their story in the context of the big story of what God is doing in the world, and that often we get the order reversed. What does this insight mean for you?
8. Pastor Matt spoke about five stages on the journey of moving into mission. Share where you are individually on this journey and spend some time in listening prayer inviting Jesus to show you how he is leading you forward. Share what Jesus is saying to you with the group to the level you feel comfortable.