



Acts: Commissioning

April 26

INTRODUCTION: Acts: Jesus' work, through the Apostles and disciples, by the Holy Spirit, to fulfil Acts 1:8. After much ado, we arrive at the first missionary journey of Paul where the Gospel begins to go forth to the Gentiles and toward the "ends of the earth." However, not before a commissioning...

KEY POINT: commissioning, prayer, church-missions

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Morning of Music)

- Why is it right and good that we should praise God?
- What personal benefit does the ministry of music bring?
- In what ways does music aid our mission?

P.M. BIBLE STUDY RECAP (Acts 12:20–24, Herod's Demise)

- How does the context and narrative set the stage for Herod's demise? What did he do that was so proud?
- Why did Luke include this story to round off a chapter on opposition? How should this encourage us today?
- What contrast is there with v. 24?

READ: Acts 12:24–13:3

QUESTIONS:

1. *Stephen's sermon, Philip's bold evangelization, Cornelius' conversion, and preaching to the Gentiles in Antioch had all prepared the Church for this moment.*
2. *Saul and Barnabas were in Jerusalem (with John Mark) because they had brought famine relief (12:30). Might they have been praying for Peter's release, after all one prayer meeting was at Mark's mother's residence?*
3. *John Mark was Barnabas' relative (Col 4:10). Barnabas probably encouraged him to come to assist in the work at Antioch.*
4. **V. 1- what was the prophetic office? (1 Cor 12:10) With the coming of the Canon (e.g. the NT) why is it now past? (Eph 2:20) (Though admittedly some are prophetic in**

terms of seeing matters insightfully or challenging injustice. The Lord also can prompt believers but this must be tested, 1 Jn 4:1).

5. *The Levites/Scribes taught the OC, so too today Elders are "able to teach." (1 Ti 3:2; Eph 4:11). While many Christians might "teach" in a general sense, why is official teaching linked in the NT to officers/gifted men?*
6. *It is not clear who held what office, but there are 5 men noted:*

Barnabas	Simeon (Niger [Black])	Lucius of Cyrene	Manaen (friend of Herod Antipas)	Saul
A Greek speaking Jew/Levite from Cyprus (4:36)	An African	A latin name; from north Africa	Grew up with Herod	A Greek speaking Jew from Tarsus

7. **How does this list give us a window into the makeup of the church in Antioch? (Note Manaen!) How was it truly a cosmopolitan Christian community? How did this make it the perfect sending ground to launch the Gentile mission?**
8. *V. 2, while they [the church]*
9. *Worship (v. 2) and prayer and fasting (v. 2 and 3) were and are to be common acts of piety in the life of the Church.*
10. **Why did the Holy Spirit make this revelation when they were worshipping and fasting? Can we expect the Lord to regularly speak to us (pl.) if we're not seeking Him?**
11. While God has appointed officers, etc, how does this remind us:
 - a. Christ reigns supreme over the Church by His Spirit?
 - b. The Lord works in significant matters through the whole Body?
12. **How is this call rather ambiguous like Abram's (Gen 12) and therefore required adventurous faith? (i.e. Who, and probably what, but where?)**
13. *V. 3- Laying on of hands is a custom of the Church authoritatively recognizing someone and asking the Spirit to bless them.*
14. Why would prayer and fasting accompany a commissioning? (*Remember Jesus' words, "when you fast, when you pray."*)

15. **How does the Spirit and the Church role in commissioning balance individualism and corporatism in our Christian life and ministry?**
16. **The first major recorded mission was through a local Church. Whether independently or cooperatively, why ought local churches to be the vehicle of missions?**

NEXT: May 3- Acts 13:44–52 (The response in Pisidian Antioch)