



GARDEN CITY C H U R C H

Home Church Guide 2.5.2023

Antioch Series Part 1

Acts 13:1-3

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

Antioch was one of the **main cities** that those in the early church scattered to after the persecution of Stephen in Jerusalem.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

- Which of the three areas we are going to be focused on below are you most excited to learn about and why?

Over the next several weeks we are going to look at:

- The historical significance of the church of Antioch
- The attributes of key leaders of the church of Antioch
- And key characteristics of the church of Antioch and how they did ministry that we can learn from today

History of Antioch

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

- Is this the first time you are learning about the church of Antioch in Scripture? If it is not, what did you already know?

Acts 11:19-21 Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. 20 But some of them were men from Cyprus (**Turkey/Mediterranean Sea**) and Cyrene (**Northern Africa**), who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

DISCUSSION QUESTION:

- When you think about persecution in the church, believers being killed for their faith, is it hard to relate to? Interestingly, persecution has always led to the church growing. Why do you think that is?

Acts 11:22-26 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. **23** When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. **24** For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. **25** Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. **26** And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Ministry to the Lord Acts 13:2 As they *ministered to the Lord* and fasted,

Leitourgeō (minister to the Lord): to do a service, perform a work

- A. of priests and Levites who were busied with the sacred rites in the tabernacle or the temple
- B. of Christians serving Christ, whether by prayer, or by instructing others concerning the way of salvation, or in some other way

“When we preach the gospel we are ministering to Jesus, let that motivate your evangelism”

Will it be said of you and I in the end that we were affectionate lovers of the Lord (Psalm 27:4, Matthew 22:37-39)

Ministry to the Lord is about being one with Him, the Father and the Spirit, and beholding His glory (John 17:20-24)

Ministry to the Lord was needed in His final hours (John 19:27)

It is ministry to the Lord that brings us into the revelation that He is our inheritance and that we are His (Numbers 18:20, Deuteronomy 32:9)

Friendship ministry - A FACE TO FACE EXPERIENCE (Exodus 33:11)

Bridal ministry - INTENTIONAL INTIMACY AND ANTICIPATION THAT SPRINGS FROM AFFECTION (Matthew 25:1-5)

As we minister to the Lord we become more like Him (Psalm 17:15, 2 Cor. 3:18)

Ministry to the Lord is how we steward freedom, peace, and breakthrough (Psalm 25:15, Isaiah 26:3,

Ministering to the Lord and abiding in Him is key to overcoming sin (1 John 3:6)

The punishment given to the levitical priests who worshiped idols was that they could still minister to the people. They could still perform all of the tasks and duties of the temple before man, but they were cut off from ministering to the Lord (Ezekiel 44:10-15)

DISCUSSION QUESTION: If you were promised to gain everything you wanted in life but were cut off from ministering to the Lord in His presence would you miss Him? Would it bother you? Really think about it....does your life, and how you spend your time reflect your answer?

How we steward a life of ministry to the Lord can be summed up in this theological phrase made popular by R.C. Sproul “Coram Deo”.

- To live before the face of God, continually in His presence
- To live under the authority of God
- To live for the glory of God

PRAYER: End praying over each other that these invitations would become a part of everyone's lifestyle. That these three invitations would become everyone's daily reality.