

Mt. 28:16-20

A NEW *Beginning*



LOOK TO THE CROSS FOR ETERNAL HOPE

Mt. 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.



The great need and work of church planting

1 Tim. 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**

http://apostles-raleigh.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Why_Plant_Churches-Keller.pdf
(See Lyle Schaller, *44 Questions for Church Planters* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1991), p.12.)

<http://www.sbts.edu/resources/magazines/restoring-the-churchs-first-love-a-case-study-from-the-church-at-ephesus/>



1. The number of unchurched people in America would make the 8th most populous country in the world.

2. In the past decade, more people in the U.S. have become churchless than live in Australia or Canada.

3. The vast majority of America's churchless have attended a church.

4. While the churchless are primarily men, the percentage of women in their ranks is on the rise.

5. The unchurched in America tend to be less educated than the churchless.



6. The Pacific Coast is home to the largest percentage of churchless per capita.

7. The unchurched are more likely to be unmarried.

8. The younger a person is, the less likely he or she is to attend church.

9. Unchurched adults are more likely to be white.

10. The majority of the churchless in America claim Christianity as their faith.

<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/culture/698-10-facts-about-america-s-churchless#.VKhdCVqtx94>

Where to begin

To properly understand *church planting*, one must have a proper, Scriptural understanding of Ecclesiology. Simply put, the Lord Jesus Christ stated that He had authority (Mt. 28:18) and gave it to the first church to carry out the *Great Commission*. In Mt. 16:18, Christ Jesus stated that the first church was established by Him, upon Himself, and Col. 1:18 states that He has all the preeminence for it. In 1 Cor. 12:28, the Scriptures states the role of Apostles, (see Lu. 6:13 for the timing) as well as Eph. 2:20. Eph. 4:11-16 indicates the simple program and purpose of a church.

A simple summary for church planting –
CHURCHES START CHURCHES.

PRAYER

Before the Lord Jesus officially began His first church, He spent the night before in prayer:

Lu. 6:12-13 (see 1 Cor. 12:28)

Mk. 9:29 (Mt. 17:21)

Before starting the Apostle Paul's great missionary ministry, the church at Antioch fasted and prayed:

Acts 13:3 And **when they had fasted and prayed**, and laid *their* hands on them, **they sent *them* away.**

Acts 1:13-14, 4:24, 29-31, 12:5, 12, 16:16, 25, 20:35-36, 21:5

Summary

A simple summary for church planting – CHURCHES START CHURCHES.

COMMITMENT TO PRAY – A commitment to pray every day!

A
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Adoration

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication



Presently, we have 30 members committed to praying 51 hours, or over **2 DAYS**, per week, every week, asking the Lord to enable us to start churches via our church.

What is the next step?

For us, as a church, to be involved in planting churches, we need to pray specifically about...

PARTNERING WITH A MAN CALLED OF GOD

Acts 13:1 Now there were **in the church that was at Antioch** certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.**

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, **they sent *them* away.**

I. THE EXISTENCE OF THE MOTHER CHURCH

A. The Primary Church, Acts 1:12

Acts 1:12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.
13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James *the son* of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas *the brother* of James.

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

B. The Possible Connection, Acts 6:5

Acts 6:5 And the saying pleased **the whole multitude**: and **they chose** Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, **and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch**:

1. The Congregational Polity, Acts 6:5a

2. The Choice of a Proselyte, Acts 6:5b
(he was a non-Jew)

C. The Person Chosen



Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul:

26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year **they assembled themselves with the church**, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

1. The Transition, Acts 11:19-21

- The “Great Commission” was being “motivated” to be accomplished. (via persecution)
- The converted Jews took the Gospel to the Gentiles (Rom. 1:16)
- There was a connection with Cyprus.



2. The Testimony, Acts 11:22a

- The first church in Jerusalem was the center of missionary activity.
- The church in Jerusalem had the authority, and concern, to start a church in Antioch.
- The church chose a faithful man to go to Antioch.
- Barnabas had connection to the men in Antioch, from Cyprus.

Acts 4:36 And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed **Barnabas**, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, *and* **of the country of Cyprus,**

Acts 15:39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so **Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;**

3. The Trips, Acts 11:22b-26

- Barnabas goes to Antioch to evaluate the situation (“survey trip”)
- Barnabas saw God’s work of grace in that place.
- Barnabas encouragement to the believers



- “...when he came, and had seen had seen the grace of God...” = ATTENTION
- “...was glad, and...” = ATTITUDE
- “...exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.” = ADMONISH
- Barnabas sought Saul (Paul)
 - INVEST & INVITE!
- Barnabas was laying the foundation to change the world as he was used in planting a “baby” church.



- 26 “And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch...”
- “...And it came to pass, that a whole year **they assembled themselves with the church, and...**”
- “...taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”

II. THE EXAMPLE OF THE NEW MOTHER CHURCH



Acts 13:1 Now there were **in the church that was at Antioch** certain prophets and teachers; as **Barnabas**, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, **and Saul**.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, **Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them**.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, **they sent *them* away**.

A. The Involvement in “the church” – Acts 13:1-2a

- The church was active BEFORE they were planting churches – names and ministries!

B. The Interruption of the church – Acts 13:2b

- The church's routine was interrupted – God's timing was right to start a new ministry – birthing new churches!

Original Word: ἀφορίζω

Transliteration: apherizó

Short Definition: I rail off, separate, place apart – for a purpose

Divine action in setting men apart for His work.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/873.htm>

<http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G873&t=KJV>

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- Two of the best workers, including the “founding pastor” were chosen to leave.
 - The chosen men were first “called” before sent.

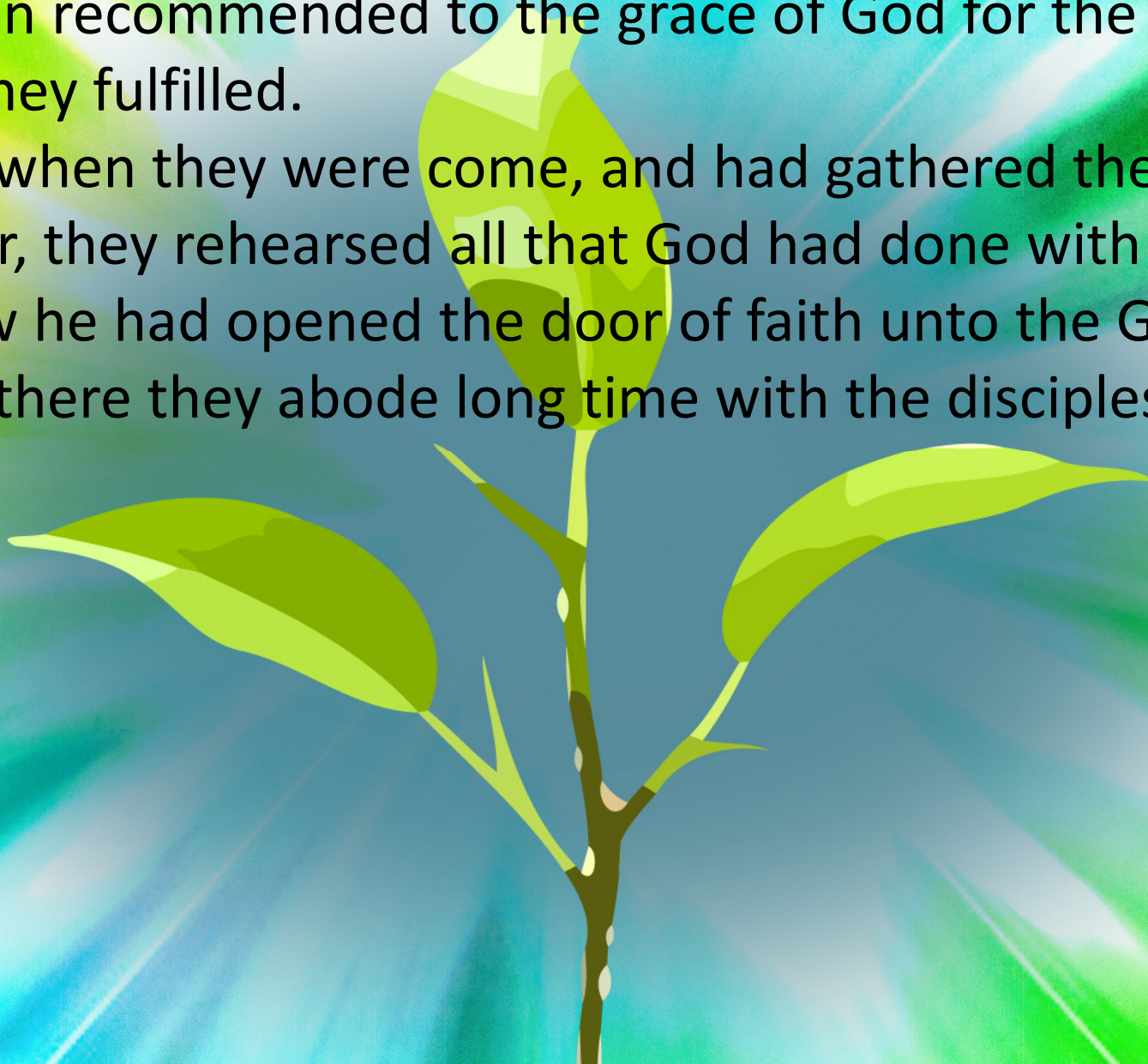
C. The Investment of the church – Acts 13:3

- The church prayed – “And when they had fasted and prayed...”
- The church authorized – “...and laid *their* hands on them...”
- The church commissioned – “...**they sent *them* away.**”
- The church continued – Acts 14:26-28

Acts 14:26 And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled.

27 And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

28 And there they abode long time with the disciples.



Conclusion

Acts 13:25 And as **John fulfilled his course**, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not *he*. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of *his* feet I am not worthy to loose.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, **so that I might finish my course with joy**, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good fight, **I have finished *my* course**, I have kept the faith:

Heb. 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and **let us run with patience the race that is set before us,**

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For **consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, **lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.****