

Introduction:

This is the last of three sermons in which we examine our mission statement here at First Central. This week we look at Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3. You can find the sermon notes [here](#)¹ or listen to the sermon by clicking [here](#).²



Scripture:

Please see the various text references below.

So What?

In the last two weeks Pastor Mark has reviewed our church's mission statement by way of explaining its biblical basis. "Unless we are careful, a church's clear, compelling vision can dim and fade with time. We can become inward focused and lose sight of what God has called us to be and to do." So we have reminded ourselves that we want to become:

- An Acts 2:42-47 Community of Faith—a family of families that is passionate about God's word, fellowship, worship, and prayer; where outreach is a natural byproduct.
- An Ephesians 4:11-16 Equipping Community—a place where gifted leaders focus on equipping people to serve; where the members are the ministers and the pastors are the equippers.
- An Acts 13-14 Sending Community—a strong, established church helping to strengthen and establish other churches; sending our best into ministry.

"The church in Antioch provides a model of this type of ministry. They were a strong, established church (Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3) helping to establish other churches (Acts 13:4-14:27)." (This section adapted from Pastor Marks sermon notes)

What Now?

1. Read Acts 13:3. Notice that Paul and Barnabas' mission was initiated by the Holy Spirit. Note also that they were not passively setting by as God did all the work. The Church at Antioch was actively worshipping when they received the call to send Paul and Barnabas, and Paul and Barnabas wasted no time in going. They received further guidance from God as they went. Let us dwell in unity as a church and seek the Lord in worship together, asking him how we might be used for his glory. When we receive guidance, let us move forward with confidence and in obedience.
2. It is tempting to guard our best resources, keeping them for ourselves, but the church at Antioch did not hesitate to follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit to send Paul and Barnabas. We are his people, and is working through us to bring the message of reconciliation to the world. We must be willing as a church to endure change and loss when following God's will.
3. Being a sending church takes many forms. Here at First Central we act as a sending church by supporting the work of missionaries, as well as sending out missionaries, both long and short term. How can you help support this mission of being a sending church? Maybe you might consider joining one of our short-term mission trips. Perhaps God might move you to establish a new short or long term mission.
4. [Click here](#)³ to review the mission statement and the core values of an effective church.

¹ <https://wheelsms.wordpress.com/2016/01/31/the-church-is-a-sending-community/>

² firstcentralbaptist.com/sermons/thechurch.html

³ <https://wheelsms.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/the-church-is-a-sending-community-acts-13-14-sermon-notes2.pdf>

