



Mission

Taking Jesus
to the World

How to Make Disciples

1st Missionary Journey - Acts 13-14

Pastor Nathan Mains - Jan 17, 2010

The Mission Jesus left His Disciples

Matt 28:19-20 *Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*

Acts 1:8 *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.” (NIV)*

How the Mission Flame Spread

Acts 6:7 *So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

➤ Persecution comes and forces the new Jesus movement out of Jerusalem into Judea & Samaria

9:31 *Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria ... grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.*

➤ Herod tries to douse it - *But the word of God continued to increase and spread. (12:24)*

What about *to the ends of the earth*?

Acts 11:19 *Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews.*

20 *Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.*

21 *The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. (NIV)*

Better check this out

Acts 11:22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God... a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

- *So Barnabas brought Saul to Antioch*
- 26...for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.*
- *46 AD Antioch helps Jerusalem ...sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul*
- *12:25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. (NIV)*

So, what do we do next?

Acts 13:1 *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.*

2 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."

3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off...

5 John was with them as their helper. (NIV)

Acts 13:4-6 they sailed to Cyprus ... proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues ... traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos... (NIV)



@ Paphos on Cyprus

Acts 13:6 ...they met a *Jewish* sorcerer and false prophet named *Bar-Jesus*, 7 who was an attendant of the proconsul, *Sergius Paulus*.

*The proconsul, an intelligent man,
sent for Barnabas and Saul*

because he wanted to hear the word of God.

8 *But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. (NIV)*

When Making Disciples know that...

1. When hearts are being moved towards Christ there will be competing voices

@ Paphos on Cyprus

Acts 13:9 *Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said,*

10 *"You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"*

11 *Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun."*

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. (NIV)

Acts 13:12 *When the proconsul saw what had happened, he **believed**, for he was **amazed at the teaching about the Lord.*** (NIV)

□ Note the purpose of signs & wonders:
to authenticate the message or the
messenger

□ With this story Luke is informing us that **Gentile openness & Jewish opposition** will characterize Paul's *ends of the earth* mission

When Making Disciples

2. Initiate & stay tuned-in to the Holy Spirit
Make the most of every opportunity by tailoring your approach to each person's need & heart condition

Acts 13:13 From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

14 From Perga they went on to *Psidian Antioch*... (NIV)



@ Psidian Antioch

Acts 13:14b *On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down.*

15 *After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, if you have a message of encouragement for the people, please speak."*

16 *Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!"*

13:44 *On the next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord.*

45 *When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and talked abusively against what Paul was saying. (NIV)*

@ Psidian Antioch

Acts 13:46 *Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles..."*

48 When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

49 The word of the Lord spread through the whole region.

50 But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city.

They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region.

@ Psidian Antioch

Acts 13:51 *So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. 52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. (NIV)*

Shows Paul's Pattern: 1st Sabbath @ Synagogue > in a short time 2 opposite responses:

1) Rejoicing & Belief; 2) Strong Opposition

➤ Team moves on and/or Believers location shift

When Making Disciples

3. Sometimes God's best next thing is to shake the dust off your feet and move on

☐ As you do, stay confident that you did what you should and that God's work there can continue.

Acts 14:1 @ Iconium *Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue.*

There they spoke so effectively that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed.

2 But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers...

4 The people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews, others with the apostles. 5 There was a plot afoot among the Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them.

6 But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, 7 where... they continued to preach the good news.

What would it take to deter you?

@ Lystra

Acts 14:19 ...some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over.

They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

20 *But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city.*

The next day he and Barnabas left for

@ Derbe.

21 *They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples (NIV)*

Would you ever go back to Lystra?

Is there another alternative?
Acts 14:21b *Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. (NIV)*



When Making Disciples

4. Prepare them for the Christian life Race
 - ❑ Root them in Reality: the following Jesus journey is a is a hard, hilly & long Race but sacrificing to run well is worth it

Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church

5. You need local shepherd-leaders to Heed, Feed, Lead & Weed so disciples can survive & thrive in communities of motivated, self-nourishing, progress-sharing Christ followers

When Making Disciples

Acts 14:23 ...and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. (NIV)

6. Orient Disciples to the Lord, not to you

☐ Protects from man-centeredness, hero worship, or disillusionment if the leader fails or falls

☐ Emphasizes God-dependency & Worship

What's the target? What does a disciple of Christ look like?

Target: a 4 "G" Disciple



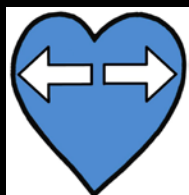
Growing – in-process changing toward Christlikeness in response to the Word of God, the Spirit of God & the people of God



Giving - God-focused Stewardship of Time, Talent & Treasure



Graceful Living – Loving, forgiving, no-strings serving



Going – Sharing the love & message of Jesus both locally and globally.

Acts 14:24 After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, 25 and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. (NIV)



Acts 14:27 *On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported **all that God had done through them** and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.*

When Making Disciples

7. Regularly Share Stories of progress

- ❑ It Sustains Mission Focus & Momentum
- ❑ It Connects what we've done, what we're doing and what we want to do with God & His mission

Acts 14:28 *And they stayed there a long time with the disciples. (NIV)*

When Making Disciples

1. Know that when hearts are being moved towards Christ **there will be competing voices**
2. To make the most of opportunities **initiate & stay tuned-in to the Holy Spirit.**
3. Know that **sometimes God's best next thing is to shake the dust off your feet and move on**
4. **Prepare for the hard, hilly & long Christian life race** which is well worth sacrificing for
5. You **need local shepherd-leaders** to Heed, Feed, Lead & Weed **so disciples can survive & thrive in communities of motivated, self-nourishing, progress-sharing Christ followers**
6. **Orient Disciples to the Lord, not to you > 4 Gs**
7. Regularly **Share Stories** of progress



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Next Week:

Mission Decision Making

- How Disciple-makers Choose the Best Next Thing
- How Disciples Discover God's Will

