

MISSION: POSSIBLE SERMON 3

Title: A Transitioning Church

Acts 13:1-4 (NLT)

Introduction: Transitions in life

Our scriptures take us at a time in the history of the Church in the Book of Acts when the Church is going through transition from the Church in Jerusalem to the Church in Antioch.

Acts 13:1-4 (NLT)

¹Among the prophets and teachers of the church at Antioch of Syria were Barnabas, Simeon (called “the black man”), Lucius (from Cyrene), Manaen (the childhood companion of King Herod Antipas), and Saul. ²One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.” ³So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. ⁴So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus.

I. THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH DEVELOPED AFTER THE PROSECUTION OF THE BELIEVERS IN JERUSALEM

Act 8:1b (NLT)

^{1b}A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.

Acts 8:4 (NLT)

⁴But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.

Acts 11:19-20 (NLT)

¹⁹Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen’s death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews. ²⁰However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus.

What can be a comfort zones or places in the church?

II. THE JERUSALEM CHURCH WAS AN EXCLUSIVE CHURCH FOR JEWS ONLY

Acts 10:11-15 (NLT)

¹¹He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. ¹²In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. ¹³Then a voice said to him, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat them.” ¹⁴“No, Lord,” Peter declared. “I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean.” ¹⁵But the voice spoke again: “Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.”

Acts 10:28 (NLT)

²⁸Peter told them, “You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean”

III. THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH WAS A MISSION CHURCH. IT INTENTIONALLY REACHED OUT TO OTHERS WHO WERE DIFFERENT THAN THEMSELVES

In order for us to be this kind of Church, we will need to become what is called “An Inclusive Church “.

1. We must be willing to be _____.
2. We must become a _____ community.
3. We must allow for _____ ways of worship.
4. We must develop _____ in various areas of life: business community, the needy, the rich, women, seniors, young, political, social change agencies, different faith groups, etc.

To be a mission church we must do missions. It’s time!