
Witness Unhindered:
“The Village Church and the Global God”
Acts 13: 1-4, 42-52

Thoughts to Shape and Spark Discussion:

“World evangelization requires the whole church to take the whole Gospel to the whole world.” - *The Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization*

“Mission means inviting all the peoples of the earth to hear the music of God’s future and dance to it today.”
- Christopher J.H. Wright

“C.T. Studd, born to privilege, gifted athletically, and trained at Eton and Cambridge, turned his back on wealth and served Christ for decades against unimaginable odds, first in China and then in Africa. He penned these words:

*Some want to live within the sound
of church or chapel bell;
I want to build a rescue shop
within a yard of hell.”* - D.A. Carson

Themes and Questions to Guide Reflection and Response:

- What from the Scripture passage or the sermon made an impression upon you? Are there lingering questions to be answered or rabbit trails to be followed for you?
- One of the tensions in the passage for today is the push/pull of establishing and enjoying intimacy and trust within a close community and making room for more people by reaching out beyond the inner circle.
 - Describe your own experience with that tension.
 - What is the right attraction to close-knit, trusted relationships?
 - What does it take to make room for others? What does it cost to reach beyond the inner circle?
 - How is Hope navigating these concerns as a church?
- The liberating and motivating experience of God’s gracious mission to the church in Antioch enabled them to count the cost of reaching out and actively participate in God’s mission.
 - How does God show himself to be the Great Missionary and the Great Evangelist in this passage?
 - Why are his commitment to and zeal for redemption crucial? What happens if we overlook his commitment and zeal?
- The church in Antioch gave themselves to regular rhythms of worship, learning, and spiritual disciplines.
 - How did the regular rhythms of worship connect them to the missionary heart of God?
 - Is your regular participation in the life of the church connecting you to God’s heart and motivating you towards greater participation in God’s mission?
- The sermon made a distinction between “mission” and “missions”
 - How are you connecting your vocation in life to the mission of God?
 - How does the call to be “salt and light” help you in that process?