



COMMUNITY OF FAITH

UNSTOPPABLE WEEK 3

Acts 13: 2-3

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

The church *sends away some of its best people*. That's important for a church that wants to be outward-focused.

The Gospel is sent

Paul and Barnabas preach in Pisidian Antioch, and the response is huge. But then opposition comes from some of the Jewish leaders.

Acts 13:47

For this is what the Lord has commanded us:

“‘I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.’”

Imagine a coach who has built a great team and then says:

“We're going to take our two best players and send them to another team.”

Everyone would think the coach was crazy. But that's essentially what Antioch does.

The church has Paul and Barnabas—two of its best leaders—and the Holy Spirit says, “Set them apart...send them.”

A healthy church doesn't measure success by how many great people it can keep.

A healthy church measures success by how many people it is willing to send.

The church in Antioch didn't say, “We need Paul here.”

They said, “If God has called Paul there, Paul needs to go there.”

Sometimes faithfulness means letting go of something valuable because there's something more valuable on the other side of obedience.

Going to the ends of the earth doesn't mean God gives us the whole map.

Sometimes God just gives us the next step.

Paul tried to go to Asia. But the Holy Spirit would not allow him to go.

The Gospel moves beyond

It moves beyond our plans.

Our demographic.

Our desires.

Acts 16:6-10 (Paul is prevented from going to Asia)

Sometimes I think I know better than my Google Maps. And many times it has cost.

It is human desire to want to know the future. How will it all turn out? However, more times than not, God only gives us one step at a time. Because He isn't just trying to get us somewhere, He is trying to make us more like His Son.

The rest of the book of Acts isn't about where Paul goes...but is more about the **Gospel of Jesus refusing to stay in one place.**

Acts 28:31

He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!

The Gospel Keeps Going

You may never know the ripple effect of one conversation, one invitation, one act of generosity, one person you disciple, one teenager you invest in, one neighbor you love. You don't have to see the whole ripple. You just have to be willing to make the first one. Every interaction is a **Good News Opportunity.**

Paul doesn't set out thinking, "I'm going to become one of the greatest missionaries in history." He simply keeps saying yes to the next place God sends him. Look at what happens:

Paul eventually makes it to Rome.
 Not because Rome was Paul's plan.
 Not because the journey was easy.
 Not because there weren't closed doors and setbacks and shipwrecks along the way.
 But because the Gospel keeps going.
 And when Paul gets to Rome, Luke doesn't say, "And finally, the mission was complete."
 He says Paul kept preaching Jesus "with all boldness and without hindrance."
 Because Acts doesn't really end in Rome.
 It ends with the Gospel still moving.
 And the story doesn't end with Paul.
 The story comes all the way to us.
 The Gospel didn't start with us.
 The Gospel doesn't end with us.
 Someone carried it to us.
 Now we carry it to someone else.

Antioch → Cyprus → Galatia → Macedonia → Greece → Rome

Paul couldn't see Rome from Antioch...But God could.

Billy Graham was led to Christ by Mordecai Ham, an evangelist who preached a revival meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, in November 1934.

The Gospel didn't start with us.
 The Gospel didn't start with us.
 The Gospel doesn't end with us.

The classic Romans Road

1. **Romans 3:23 The Problem: Everyone has sinned**
 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
2. **Romans 6:23 The Consequence: Sin leads to death**
 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
3. **Romans 5:8 The Solution: God loves us, and Jesus died for us**
 "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
4. **Romans 10:9 The Response: Believe in Jesus**
 "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that

God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

5. **Romans 10:13 The Promise: Anyone who calls on Jesus will be saved**

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”