

The Assembly at Antioch

the church of choice

Lesson 1 – ACTS 11:19-26 – A Multicultural Assembly

Lesson 2 – ACTS 11/13/15 – A Teaching-Preaching Assembly

Lesson 3 – ACTS 13:1-3 – A Worshiping-Waiting Assembly

47 AD 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.



First Century Antioch

capital of Roman province of Syria

world's third largest city, after Rome and Alexandria

first-century population estimates from 500,000 to 750,000

15 miles from the Mediterranean coast, but accessible via the Orontes River; a major trade center and cultural crossroads

Greek paganism prevailed, but a large Jewish population also thrived

300 miles north of Jerusalem

would become the center of world missions for first-century Christianity

The Antioch Services

1. They were gathered as a group

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.

- ▲ This was a ministry church
- ▲ This was a meeting church

2. They were waiting in worship

Acts 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord

- ▲ They were lingering in the Lord's presence
- ▲ They were loving the Lord with their prayers and praises
- ▲ They were listening for the Lord's priorities and purposes

3. They were fasting from food

Acts 13:2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting,

- ▲ Fasting is forfeiture
- ▲ Fasting is for focusing

4. They were sensitive to the Spirit's speaking

Acts 13:2 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."

- ▲ The Holy Spirit spoke in the context of sound doctrine
- ▲ The Holy Spirit spoke with clarity and spiritual direction

5. They launched out at the Lord's leading

Acts 13:3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

- ▲ The Lord spoke to them inside the church
- ▲ The Lord sent them outside the church

The Antioch Strategies

1. We must worship God passionately as a unified body of believers when we gather for church.
2. We must lay aside distractions and hindrances and enter quickly and fully into God's presence.
3. We must each recognize the importance of our own individual spiritual investment into the services.
4. We must welcome the Holy Spirit's personal presence and work in our services—and surrender to Him.
5. We must learn that our assemblies are for ministering to the Lord as well as receiving ministry from Him.
6. We must pray for fresh power, fresh gifts, fresh vision, and fresh direction for our lives and our church.
7. We must pray that our experience in church will change our daily lives outside the church.