

The Alpha and Omega of a Missionary Journey

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The Alpha of a Missionary Journey

Acts 13:1-4

- ❖ The Impact of the 1st Century Church at Antioch was directly related to it's Leadership team:
 - Barnabas
 - Simeon called Niger
 - Lucius of Cyrene
 - Manaen "who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch"
 - Saul

- ❖ The action in Acts 13 marked the real beginning of any intentional effort to send out missionaries.

"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you"
– Jesus (John 20:21)

- ❖ Idea: **There is eternal value in waiting on the LORD.**

It is during those times of waiting that God:

1. _____ my motives.
2. _____ me from doing things in the flesh.
3. _____ for me His very best.

"But they that wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind."
Isaiah 40:31(The Message)

Going Deeper

1. The Bible tells us that Barnabas, one of the leaders at Antioch, was an encourager. How did he encourage the church? (see Acts 4:32-36; 15:36-41)
2. What did Manaen give up to follow Christ? (Acts 13:1). What did you give up? Was it worth it?
3. Have you ever experienced God's direction during a time of worship and fasting? (13:2) Explain.
4. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." How can your small group achieve this? How can this be realized at work or in your neighborhood?
5. Have you ever felt that God is asking you to wait for His timing on something that you know is the right thing to do? Explain.
6. How has God purified, protected, and provided for you during those times of waiting?
7. There are five factors in Acts 13:1-4 that characterize the keys in determining the will of God: prayer, fasting guidance, release, and commissioning. Discuss how these might relate to a major decision in your life.

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