



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“We Are Family: Commissioned”

Ps James Lowe – August 24, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- What's the most difficult job/task you have had to do?
- Have you ever shared the Gospel with somebody? How was your experience?
- What do you think your mission in life is?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

We have a call to combine the great commandment with the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19). This is not optional, nor does it only apply to a select group of individuals.

Acts 13:1-38 is a great example of the Great Commission being put into practice.

Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 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.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

1. We have been commissioned by God (Acts 1-3). Jesus commissioned his disciples to go and make disciples of all the nations, and that's what the disciples did. The word “disciple” is term mainly used in the Scripture to refer to a follower of Jesus. The term “Christian” is used 3 times in the New Testament, while “believers” is used 26 times, and “disciples” 282 times. Being a disciple requires active involvement. People don't become disciples; rather, people are made into disciples. What this means is that they are taught what and how to obey Jesus' teaching. In our passage at hand, God commissioned Paul and Barnabas during a time of fasting and prayer. God is commissioning us as believers as well, but many times we don't hear his call or we don't see the open doors because we don't pray. He calls us to be missionaries to everybody that we come into contact with, not just those who look like us.
2. We have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill this commission. When we are sent to preach the Gospel, we will surely face opposition, the same way that Paul and Barnabas did. The only way to be able to be fruitful and successful despite that opposition is to move in the power of the Spirit. Jesus has given us a power that is greater than any other power of this world. He has given us authority over demons, sicknesses, and all darkness so we can overcome the enemy's opposition and schemes.
3. We need to have the Gospel to fulfill this commission (Acts 13:15-38). The Gospel is the power of God for salvation, and we have it. Even if you are not the most anointed or eloquent preacher, if you are a

believer you have the Gospel within you. When you preach the Gospel, some will believe and some won't. Some people will like you and others won't. However, that doesn't change our responsibility to preach the Gospel nor does it diminish the power of the Gospel.

Going to make disciples is not an option is a command.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What would it take for you to be more consistent in sharing the Gospel with others?
- Where has God strategically placed you to share the Gospel?
- List three people in your sphere of influence with whom you need to share the Gospel.

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray for the 3 people with whom you want to share the Gospel with in the next month.
- Pray for the Engage ministry that we do as a church.
- Pray for a nation that you want to go to on a Ten Days Mission next year.