

THE CHURCH THAT CHANGES THE WORLD

Part 3 – Sacrificial Generosity

Acts 11:27-30; 13:1-4

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²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius).

²⁹ So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.

³⁰ And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul. (Acts 11:27-30)

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. 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 Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. ⁴ So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went... (Acts 13:1-4)

A WORLD-CHANGING CHURCH:

MADE UP OF STEWARDS WHO...

1. GIVE WITH EQUAL SACRIFICE

...every one according to his ability... (11:29)

⁶ The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

⁷ Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

2. GIVE TO MEET NEEDS

...a great famine over all the world. So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief... (11:28-29)

3. GIVE TO SUPPORT MISSIONARIES

Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (13:3)

4. GIVE THEMSELVES AWAY

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." (13:2)