

## **Introduction**

### **Review of 2019 priorities**

Before we begin, let's review the highlights from our sermon on January 6th, 2108

#### **Text**

**Acts 13:1-3 (ESV)** *(1) Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. (2) While they were worshipping 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.*

#### **Together for fasting and prayer**

- We must spend time... together seeking the Lord
- They were together - and God moved
- We must come together to seek the Lord
- Currently meeting on Wednesday evenings for prayer

#### **Ministry empowered by the Spirit**

- From that gathering, the Spirit called Paul and Barnabas into the mission field
- In 2019 - every believer filled / refilled with the Holy Spirit
- In 2019 - every believer used for ministry in the gifts of the Spirit

#### **Active in fulfilling the great commission**

- Outcome of that prayer meeting - Christianity spread among the entire region
- When the Spirit is using us, we will fulfill the great commission

## **Series introduction**

#### **Thoughts**

- Since seeking the Lord is our first goal, I want to look at a passage about that
- Familiar, but we're going to look at it in detail

## **Text**

- **Matt 6:33 (ESV)** (33) *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*
- Familiar, but will dive deeper looking today at the promise made, then the process of seeking the Lord

## **Today**

- I want to look at the promise part of the scripture
- This passage (and the surrounding context) makes a powerful promise!

## **Message**

### **Problem**

#### **Ask:**

Before I share the message, let's take a little survey:

- How many have a need of some sort (raise your hand)
- Keep your hand raised if that need is physical (vs. Spiritual).
- Keep your hand raised if that need is causing some worry or anxiety

### **We all have needs**

- We all have needs physical needs
- Food, clothing, shelter, healing, burdens for loved ones, etc

### **What do we do about them?**

#### ***Context of passage***

- Jesus opens by teaching about giving
- But then he teaches about prayer
- His followers are to pray differently from the unbelievers around them - because they know their Father understands their needs

### ***Its human to worry or be anxious about them***

- Because we don't understand our Father and His love, our human nature

produces worry

- Throughout this passage Jesus tells us not to worry
- See v25 **Matt 6:25 (ESV)** (25) *"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?"*
- **Matt 6:31 (ESV)** (31) *Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'*
- See **Phili 4:6 (ESV)** (6) *do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

### ***Wasted time / energy***

- In this passage Jesus speaks about how foolish it is to worry
- See **Matt 6:27-28 (ESV)** (27) *And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? (28) And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin,*

### ***This passage gives us the solution***

- Instead of foolish worry or futile effort, the believer is to do what this passage says
- **Matt 6:33 (ESV)** (33) *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

## **Process**

### **Seek**

- **Discuss:** What does it mean to seek
- **Illustrate:** Hidden \$100 in the sanctuary somewhere
- Actively look for something - in order to obtain it
- Takes time, effort, energy
- You'd have to decide it was worth the effort!
- Prioritize it with everything else
- Next couple of weeks we'll look at what we should be doing
- Based on the promise today - you'll have to decide

### **Kingdom of God**

- More on this next week
- The Lord's rule and reign in our lives
- The Lord's priorities for our lives

### **His righteousness**

- We'll look at this from Phil 3 two weeks from now
- What does it mean to seek His righteousness?
- I thought I was righteous?

### **See v32**

- Note: we're to seek these things, the Gentiles / pagans / unbelievers are consumed with seeking material things

### **Priority: First**

- In order to obtain the promises, we need to make this seeking our first priority
- Going back to our survey - how much time did we spend with God....
- **Not** not about the need, but seeking His kingdom, seeking His righteousness
- We're wasting our time, and exhaustion and anxiety are the result
- In 2019, I want us to come together to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness - believing the promise of this verse that all these other things will be added to us.
- **Phili 4:19 (ESV)** (19) *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

### **Promise**

#### **All these things**

- Again remember the context: our material physical needs
- The promise is that God will supply what we need - as we seek Him
- All these things
- David penned it this way: **Psalm 23:1** A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

***Physical need***

- green pastures
- Still waters

***Emotional need***

- Restores my soul

***Protection***

- Rod and staff
- Shadow of death

***Presence***

- Thou art with me
- Surely goodness and mercy

**Why?**

- Because we have a Heavenly Father who loves us
- He knows what we need
- We devote ourselves to seeking Him, he'll make use we're cared for

**Closing****We all have needs**

- One of the truths we began with

**What are you going to do about yours?**

- begin to seek the Lord's kingdom and righteousness
- trust him to care for you
- Join us for a time of prayer and seeking God
- Come back next week for more