

14—The Spirit's Calling

8/11/24

INTRO:

I. → Acts 13:2-4

*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.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and **sent them** off. The two of them, **sent** on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.*

II. ASKING IN EVERY SEASON

BODY:

I. Set Apart by the Spirit

***Set apart** for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have **called** them (aforízo) divide, separate, set apart*

A. Each of us has a unique calling placed upon our lives.

1) Galatians 1:15-16

But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles.

2) GOD CALLING ME TO COLUMBIA CITY

B. If we say “yes” to everything we say “no” to our calling.

1) Titus 2:12

It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

2) FINDING OUR CALLING AS A CHURCH

II. Sanctified by the Spirit

So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and **sent them** off (*apolúo*) sent off, loose, release

A. If we want to be used by Him we need to be prepared.

1) **2 Timothy 2:20-21**

In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

2) **DAVID WATCHING AFTER HIS FATHER'S SHEEP**

A. Every path to success begins with diligent preparation.

1) **1 Corinthians 9:25-26**

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

2) **ATHELETES TRAINING FOR THE OLYMPICS**

3) **JOHN BELUSHI—LI'L CHOCOLATE DONUTS**

III. Sent Forth by the Spirit

The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus (*ekpempo*) dispatched.

A. It is God that calls us and gives purpose to our lives.

1) **Galatians 1:1**

Paul, an apostle—sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead.

2) **THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM—1646**

What is the chief end of man?

It is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever.

3) CH OF FIRE—ERIC LIDDELL—1924 PARIS OLYMPICS

According to a fellow missionary, Liddell's last words were, "It's complete surrender", in reference to how he had given his life to God.

B. We are not called by our talent, but by His grace.

1) **1 Corinthians 1:26-28**

Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

2) **CALLING US TO SERVE MISSIONARIES**

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

Acts 20:23-24

I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit **warns** me that prison and hardships are facing me.

Acts 21:11

Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit **says**, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"

Romans 15:16

He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 1:6-8

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 Timothy 1:14

Guard the **good deposit** that was **entrusted** to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.