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“Don’t Close Open Doors!”   
Acts 13:1-4a  
SERIES: Stretch Your Nets (Acts) – #11

WBC Sermon Notes 18/04/2021   
Rev. Paul Witter  
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**Introduction**    
 Is God stretching your net?  
 Do you realize that He has placed before you open doors. Don’t close them!!

**Reading: Acts 13:1-4**

**The statue of Richard the Lion Heart**

POINT: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………..………

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

God has given us many opportunities – open doors – don’t close them!!

Acts 1:8   
The Apostles, Jesus, and the Spirit at work in:  
Part 1: Acts 1-7 ………………………………………………….  
Part 2: Acts 8-12 ………………………………………………..  
Part 3: Acts 13 – 21 ……………………………………………

The Antioch church (v2):

* an interesting group of people: ………………………………………………………………..
* a strategic position: …………………………………………………………………………………..
* open to being on mission with God:…………………………………………………………..

**1. The C……….…………… of being on mission with God:  
 the guidance of the Holy Spirit (13:3)**

**The Holy Spirit spoke into the life of the church**

* **… while they were ……………………………………**  
    
  While we ……………….….., we recognize the holiness and sovereignty of God.
* **… while they were ……………………………………**  
    
  While we ……………., we align our wills with God’s will.  
  We become passionate about the things that are important to God.  
  Matthew 16:26
* **… while they were ……………………………………**While we …………………., we surrender ourselves to God.  
    
  The Holy Spirit’s guidance is s……………………. and p……………………… (v2)

**2. The C……….…………… of being on mission with God (13:47-48)**

Acts 13:47-48  
  
**Three reasons why Christians get discouraged”:**

* **Being on mission with God is too …………………………:**  
   “we need superstars”  
  The Antioch church were ordinary people who had a h…………………….. for Jesus.
* **Being on mission with God is too …………………………:**  
   “pay people to get the job done”  
  Matthew 28:18-20  
   v19: “as you are going”
* **Being on mission with God is too …………………………:**  
   “get organizations and specialists”  
  “The …………………………… was built by experts, the ………… by …………….  
    
  2 Timothy 4:7  
  Acts 13:22

**3. The C……….…………… of being on mission with God (13:2)**

The call of God

The Macedonian call – Acts 16:9

*“During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."*

Lydia’s conversion (Acts 16:11-15)  
  
V15 “*The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message”*  
  
Jesus opens hearts!! Don’t close open doors!!

**Bars that shut doors:**

* The bar of ………………………. (Mark 4:12)
* The bar of ………………………. (Hebrews 3:12)
* The bar of ………………………. against God (Romans 8:7)
* The bar of ………………………. and pride. (Psalm 10:4)
* The bar of ………………………. and despair (Jeremiah 18:12)
* The bar of ………………………. (John 5:40)
* The bar of ……………………….-mindedness (Mark 4:19)
* The bar of ………………… …………..……. (John 3:19)

Do you believe?

Pray and Go!!

Are you a statue or a statement?