



GOING DEEPER

Discussion Questions and more from Sunday's message, before we begin, here are the verses for this week's study! Open your bible to the book of Acts 13: 1-3, Psalm 25:14; 2nd Timothy 4:1-5.

How much time have you spent this past week reflecting on Jesus and the hope of the gospel? How has reflecting on Him been of help to you? Because that is how we grow in how we think about our relationship to God and how we bring Him Glory each day, in each conversation, interaction, our work, our family. **In everything.** The gospel and the love of Christ should indwell us, and we should be burdened to share that good news with others in these last days. ***Have you shared the good news with anyone this week? Have you showed the love of Jesus to anyone this week?***

Ordination Service for Josh Moore:

Billy opens with a message from God's word for the first missionary journey by directing the church to "set apart," (dedicate) Barnabas and Saul for the first missionary journey.

"The description of the commissioning of the missionaries suggests a twofold responsibility for the church- worship and mission. Both are essential. The church should meet to worship and also witness to the world." Moody Bible Commentary.

Why do you think worship and mission belong together in the life of the church, and what happens when one is emphasized without the other?

How has worship shaped your willingness to witness or serve others?

1. God Calls His Servants

Acts 13:1, 2

13 "Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, [a] 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."

"The will of God is not something you add to your life. It is a course you choose."
Elisabeth Elliott

God typically speaks to his people during a place of surrender, not strategy.

Luke could have simply written, "The Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Saul."

Instead, he tells us **what the church was doing** when God spoke.

NOT... a leadership retreat - staff meeting - business meeting

They were worshiping and fasting.

Psalms 25:14 "The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him."

Practical Applications for us this week:

God reveals His purposes to people who seek Him before they seek solutions.

What is one situation right now where you need to pause, worship, pray, and seek God before trying to fix it?

Josh doesn't necessarily know where he's going

That should be a lesson for all of us

When you face a decision, problem, or opportunity, what usually comes first for you: seeking God or searching for a solution—and what might it look like this week to reverse that order?

Ordination Charge to Josh Moore from Patrick:

2 Timothy 4:1–5

This morning, we gather to recognize God's call upon your life. Ordination is not the

beginning of your ministry, but it is a public affirmation of what God has already been doing. This is a sacred moment, and Paul's words to Timothy are just as relevant today as they were nearly two thousand years ago.

Paul begins with these solemn words in verse 1

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom..."

This is not merely advice from an older pastor to a younger one. This is a solemn charge given before God Himself. Every sermon you preach, every decision you make, every soul you shepherd is done before the face of God. One day you will stand before Christ, not to answer for your salvation, but to give an account for your stewardship as a shepherd of His flock.

Then comes the heart of the charge:

"Preach the word."

Not your opinions.

Not cultural trends.

Not political talking points.

Not self-help principles.

Preach the Word of God.

Your authority will never come from your personality, your education, or your experience. Your authority comes from faithfully opening God's Word and declaring, "Thus says the Lord."

The world does not need another motivational speaker. The church needs faithful men who will proclaim the Scriptures clearly, courageously, and compassionately.

Paul continues,

"Be ready in season and out of season."

There will be seasons when people gladly receive the truth, and there will be seasons when they reject it. There will be days when ministry is joyful and days when it is exhausting. Whether the message is welcomed or resisted, your calling remains the

same: be faithful.

Paul then says,

"Reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching."

Faithful ministry requires both courage and compassion.

There will be times to confront sin.

There will be times to correct error.

There will be times to encourage weary saints.

Do all of it with patience. Never use the truth as a weapon to wound people. Instead, use it as God intended: to restore, strengthen, and mature His people.

Paul warns that a day will come when people **"will not endure sound teaching."** We certainly live on such a day. Many prefer messages that entertain rather than convict, affirm rather than transform, and comfort without calling for repentance.

Do not measure your ministry by applause. Measure it by faithfulness.

Finally, Paul concludes,

"As for you, fulfill your ministry."

Notice the personal emphasis: "As for you."

No matter what others do, you remain faithful.

When others compromise, remain faithful.

When ministry is difficult, remain faithful.

When you are discouraged, remain faithful.

When your work seems unnoticed, remain faithful.

God has not called you to be successful by the world's standards. He has called you to be faithful.

My brother, love Christ more than ministry.

Love your family more than your reputation.
Love the church enough to tell them the truth.
Keep your knees bent in prayer, your Bible open, and your eyes fixed on Jesus.

One day, when your ministry is complete, may you hear the words every servant longs to hear
"Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:21)

The Church Confirms God's Calling- Billy speaks to the members of First Baptist:

Acts 13:3

3 "Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off."

Notice what the church does *after* God has already spoken.

The Holy Spirit speaks in verse 2.

CONTEXT: The notes of the men listed in this scripture in Acts show the universal impact of the gospel. Barbabas was Jewish and from Cyprus; Lucius was from Cyrene in North Africa; Simeon (Niger) was Jewish with a Roman name; Manaen was a member of the upper class with connections to Herod; and Saul was a Jew from Tarsus, (who trained under the great Rabbi Gamaliel) Moody Bible Commentary.

THEN the people pray, fast, and lay hands on them.

That order matters.

The church isn't trying to convince God.
The church is trying to discern and obey God.

Ordination is not granting authority.
It is recognizing authority God has already established.

***"Find out where God is at work and join Him."* Henry Blackaby**

For the church... Say I will if you...

Faithfully pray for God's hand upon his and his family's life.

Encourage him through different and often difficult seasons.

Joyfully send him in Christ's name.

Final thoughts on the ordination of Josh Moore. The beautiful part of ordaining a church member like Josh Moore into an official pastoral role is that **the church is not creating the call; the church is recognizing and affirming what God has already been doing in that Josh's life.**

In the context of Acts 13, the church had been worshiping, fasting, praying, and listening. Then, when the Holy Spirit made His direction clear, the church laid hands on Barnabas and Saul and sent them out. That makes ordination beautiful because it is both **spiritual and communal.**

Note the order from this service:

God calls the servant.

The church confirms the call.

The congregation promises support.

The pastor(s) steps forward in humility and accountability.

The whole church participates in the mission of God.

The beauty of ordination is that the church gets to publicly affirm what God has privately and faithfully been forming in Josh's life. It is a sacred moment where calling, character, community, and mission come together.

Ordination reminds us that ministry is never a solo calling; it is God's call confirmed by God's people for the sake of God's mission.

Having Jesus as Savior will cost you nothing. Having Jesus as Savior will cost you everything. How so?

Who do you say God is? You cannot “come after” Jesus unless you come to Him.

Two roads stand before us in this world today. There is the way of the divine things of our Lord, which is the way of Christ. And there is the way of human things of the world. There is a way to save your life, and you will lose it there. And there is a way to lose your life for the sake of the Kingdom, and there you will find it.

How do we follow Jesus’ ways? First of all, we turn from our sin and entrust our lives to Him as our Savior and Lord. Then, we seek His will in His Word each day and put it into practice by the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We learn to deny our selfish desires and give ourselves completely to following Jesus.

This choice we have — to seek first the kingdom of God — is the fundamental choice everyone makes when they first repent and turn to Jesus Christ. Yet every day after that, our Christian life will either reinforce that decision or deny it.

Remember the gospel is personal. Your changed life shows that to others around you based on what happened at the cross. You are at a crossroads if you have not accepted Christ. Which road are you traveling on right now? Are you on God’s side?



Are you in a Growth Group at First Baptist? In this isolated world, Growth Groups help people connect in a healthy way. God has created us for a deep longing for community. We grow when we are living out our faith in a small group with others and we do this by loving, caring for, and encouraging each other. If you have any questions about our Growth Groups, contact the Church Office for more information.