

# DAY 26

FRIDAY,  
FEBRUARY 24

“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. 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.” Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.” Acts 13:1–3

## TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Acts 13 records the beginning of one of the most impressive church planting undertakings ever done. On their first missionary journey, Paul and his companions planted churches in five cities with an average stay of four months per city. On the second journey, they planted churches in 13 cities every 1.5 months. And on the third, they planted new ones and strengthened old ones between 3 weeks to 3 months per city. This remarkable feat can be attributed to several factors. But one of them is the willingness of the mother church to release their best individuals, like Paul and Barnabas.

How did they know the best ones to release? Since the word “fasting” is repeated twice in this short passage, it’s the author’s way of showing that fasting is indeed the means God used to reveal the best people to accomplish His plan and to move the whole congregation to release them. In short, when the church fasts and responds in obedience to the Holy Spirit by releasing whom God identified as the best, I believe God can revive his church in the 21st century, not just in the 1st century. What do you think?

## TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, may we become so aligned with your perfect will because we spend time marinating in your presence through fasting, resulting in us releasing our best and brightest. May what happened in Acts 13 be not just history but also a Houston reality. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

## TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

Merciful God, several families on our B.L.E.S.S. list are still far from you. But by your Holy Spirit’s gentle conviction and persuasion, coupled with our obedience to your Great Commission, may we see a great harvest for your kingdom. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

RELEASE



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