

**Introduction** (Acts 14:1-7)

In Acts 13, the Holy Spirit told the Leadership Team at Antioch to set apart Barnabas and Paul for the work that He has called them to do. The Holy Spirit had spoken to Paul, and then through Ananias that Paul was a chosen instrument to bear Jesus' name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel. God called Barnabas and Paul to apostolic ministry. The time for the plan and vision for their lives had finally come. They planned out their trip. They had a plan of where they were going to go. They would start with Cyprus and then go to Europe and Asia and then return to Antioch. They had a plan of how they were going to minister in each city. They would start with the Jews, preach to them for three weeks, and then turn to the Gentiles. They had an evangelistic plan, and they had a discipleship plan.

(Acts 9:15) "But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;"

Paul said in Colossians 1:28-29, "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me." They were going to preach the gospel. They were going to admonish and teach people the word of God. Their goal was to present every man complete in Christ. It was not just to make converts. They had a plan on how to present every man complete. Bill Bice is currently working on a discipleship plan for EMVC.

(Col 1:28-29) "We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. {29} For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."

Barnabas and Paul went to Cyprus, and preached the gospel from one end of the island to the other. They traveled to and preached the gospel in Perga, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. Some people rejected the gospel and persecuted Barnabas and Paul. But, many other people had heard the gospel and put their faith in Christ. Churches had been planted. Leadership teams had been raised up. In addition to making disciples, Barnabas and Paul poured into the leaders of the new church plants. They wanted them to be able to carry on the work when they moved on to the next city. The church was and is God's primary plan for preaching the gospel and making disciples.

In short, the work of an apostle is to plant churches by preaching the gospel, making disciples, training and ordaining elders, and then provide follow-up care for those pastors and churches while they go on to preach the gospel, make disciples, and plant churches in other areas. Barnabas and Paul had preached the gospel in all these cities, made disciples, and trained up leaders. They are coming to the end of their first apostolic trip, and it is time to wrap things up. In our text today, Luke records that they had accomplished the work that God had given them to do on the first trip. In wrapping things up. they appointed elders in every church, traveled back to Antioch, and then reported back to them all that God had done with them on this first trip. Turn to Acts 14:23, and let's read our text.

**Wrapping Things Up**

1. Appointed elders
2. Returned to Antioch
3. Gave Account

(Acts 14:23-28) “When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. {24} They passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia. {25} When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. {26} From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished. {27} When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. {28} And they spent a long time with the disciples.”

## 1. Appointed elders

This is a very short verse, and it sounds like a very simple and quick task, but it is not that way at all. They had been to four cities in that region: Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, and they appointed elders for them in every church. The word for elder is presbuteros. There is a lot of confusion today about church leadership. Nearly every church and denomination has their own terminology and opinions for leaders. Some churches have a bishop for a leader. Some have a bishop over a region. Some have a pastor over the church and the elders are under the pastor, more or less as a support team. Some churches are governed by deacons, and the pastor is under the deacon. There are lots of different forms of church government. Four or five years ago I did a ten week series on church leadership. Most of you were not here for that series, so I want to give a brief overview of elders.

**There are three Greek words that refer to the same office.** These words have been translated into different English words in different Bible translations, so I will stick with the Greek words. The words are presbuteros, episkopos, and poimano. Even though they refer to the same office, there is a reason that we have three different words. In our text today, Barnabas and Paul ordained presbuteros or elders in every church. We will start there.

**Presbuteros** (Strong’s G4245) comes from presbus, which **means an older man**. An elder is supposed to be an older, wiser, and mature person. This does not preclude a young man from being an elder, as this is more about spiritual maturity than age. I believe the term elder speaks about the character and maturity of the people leading a church. When we look at the requirements for being an elder in Titus 1:5-11, we see that **an elder is to be above reproach in his character, and in his family life**. An elder must not be divisive or rebellious. They must not be self-willed, quick-tempered, addicted to wine, quarrelsome, or fond of sordid gain. They must be hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, and self-controlled. This is all about character. **An elder must also be a person of the word**. They must hold fast the faithful word, exhort in sound doctrine, and be able to refute those who contradict. Notice that Paul uses the word overseer in verse seven. He says, for the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward.” Obviously, the elder and overseer refer to the same office. The word for overseer is episkopos. Skopos means to see. We have words like telescope, microscope, and periscope from that word. **Episkopos means to see over or oversee**.

(Titus 1:5-11) “For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, {6} namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. {7} For the overseer must be above reproach as God’s steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, {8} but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, {9} holding fast the faithful word which is in

accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict. {10} For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, {11} who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not teach for the sake of sordid gain.”

Paul gives a similar list of requirements in 1 Timothy 3, where he gives the requirements for those who aspire to the office of episkopos or overseer. Again, the person should be above reproach in character, family life, and have a good reputation with those outside the church. He must be a person of the word, who is able to teach. Notice that Paul says that the overseer must not be a new convert. He does not say that in Titus, because in that passage he has used the term presbuteros, which implies a mature believer. In Titus, Paul says that the elder is God’s steward. A steward is a manager over what belongs to someone else. In 1 Timothy, he says that the overseer must manage his own household well. If he can’t manage his own household, how will he manage God’s household? **An elder must be a good manager.** In summary, an elder/overseer/pastor must be a person with good character, able to manage, and have a good grasp of God’s word.

(1 Tim 3:1-7) “It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. {2} An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, {3} not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. {4} He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity {5} (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), {6} and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. {7} And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.”

I want to take a quick look at three other passages. The first is in Acts 20. Paul has called for the Ephesian elders to meet with him at Miletus. Notice that these are the elders in Ephesus, and he says that the Holy Spirit has made them overseers. Therefore, elders and overseers are one and the same. The teaching that overseers are over the elders is not Biblical. Notice also that Paul exhorts these elders or overseers to be on guard for all the flock, and to shepherd the church of God. The church belongs to God, not the elders. They are stewards that have been entrusted with the care of the flock. They are to be on guard for the flock. An elder watches over or oversees the flock. The term oversee is really part of the job description. The third word for this office is poimano. **Poimano means to shepherd.** This word is sometimes translated as pastor, but it really means to shepherd. A pastor is a shepherd of God’s flock. The term shepherd describes the function of an elder. He oversees or manages the affairs of the church, and he also watches over the flock. He shepherds, watches over, and feeds the flock.

(Acts 20:17) “From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.... {28} Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”

Peter wrote to those who had been scattered in different places. In his letter, he exhorts the elders to shepherd the flock with the right mind-set, the right motive, and to use the right method. Notice that he addresses them as elders (presbuteros). Second, he tells them to poimano or shepherd (poimano) the flock. Third, he tells them to exercise oversight (episkopeo). All three of these words

refer to the same office. Some speak more to the character, and others speak more about the function or work of the elder. An elder is a pastor. Many people think they are called to be an elder, but when you ask them if God has called them to be a pastor, they would say no. A person that God has called to pastor will have an inward desire to pastor. It is a calling of God. That is why in 1 Timothy 3, that Paul says, “if any aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.”

(1 Pet 5:1-3) “Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow elder and witness of the sufferings of Christ, and a partaker also of the glory that is to be revealed, {2} shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; {3} nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.

Barnabas and Paul ordained elders in every church. They were simply recognizing those that the Holy Spirit had made overseers. They were looking for those who were above reproach in their character. They were looking for those who were mature. They were looking for those who could manage the affairs of God’s house. They were looking for those who would pray over the flock and feed the flock. We do not know if the apostles in Jerusalem developed these requirements for elders, or if the Holy Spirit gave revelation to Barnabas and Paul. The first mention of elders in the church is in Acts 11, where Barnabas and Paul brought an offering from the church in Antioch to the church in Jerusalem. Barnabas and Paul used these requirements for elders to select and ordain elders in every church. In Paul’s letter to Titus, he instructs him to ordain elders in every church, using those guidelines. His letter to Timothy gives the requirements for those who want to be elders. Those who God has called to be elders should have a desire to be an elder. **An elder must not only have the qualifications, but the inward desire for that office.** In Paul’s letters and Luke’s accounts of Paul’s ministry, we have both the instructions and the example of how to select and ordain elders.

(Acts 11:30) “And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.”

While they looked in the natural, they also sought God for the spiritual input and direction. They ordained elders only after fasting and praying. They may have prayed and fasted one day, three days, or even a week. The text does not say how long they prayed and fasted, only that they prayed with fasting. When Jesus appointed the twelve, He prayed all night. Normally when I fast, I have a length of time in mind. However, there have been times when I prayed with an either time frame. I will fast until I get clear direction about the matter, or for x number of days. Barnabas and Paul wanted to hear from God about selecting elders in each of the churches. Once they had prayed with fasting, they appointed elders in every church. I believe that when they commended them to the Lord, they laid hands on them, and gave them a charge from the Lord. That is the pattern that I see in Scripture.

(Acts 14:23) “When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”

The third passage that I want to briefly look at is in Hebrews 13:17. Here, we are directed to obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over our souls as those who will give account. None of the three words were used. Here, the leaders of the church were simply called leaders. Until Barnabas and Paul ordained elders in all these churches, they had leaders, but they did not have pastors. They were a work in progress. That work was wrapped up in our text today.

(Heb 13:17) “Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.”

We use the same Biblical terminology found in this verse and at EMVC, we have a leadership team. Our Leadership Team has some who are pastors, and we have some others who are not elders who help oversee the church. We have been in a process to raise up elders. I asked our leadership team two years ago to tell me if they felt called to pastor. I wanted to see if they had the inward desire that Paul wrote to Timothy about. Since then, Bill and Nelfa joined our Leadership Team. Bill Bice was already ordained as a pastor. At EMVC, we recognized his calling and received him as an elder. You will recall that I also gave him a pastoral charge when he came. We are a work in progress. We have some elders, but there will be others raised up to be elders. Our desire, like Barnabas and Paul, is to recognize those whom the Holy Spirit is calling to be pastors in our body, and then to ordain them.

Barnabas’ and Paul’s work in preaching the gospel and planting churches was not going to be complete until they had raised up and ordained elders in every church. **A church will not be set in order until elders have been ordained.** Part of wrapping things up on this first apostolic trip was ordaining elders in every church. Once these elders had been set in place, there was proper order in those churches. A little earlier, we looked at Paul’s letter to Titus. He told him to set in order what remains and ordain elders in every city using the guidelines he gave him. Barnabas and Paul had just finished setting in order the churches that they had planted on this first apostolic journey.

## 2. Returned to Antioch

Barnabas and Paul had finished going to the areas that were part of their plan. They had preached the gospel, planted churches, raised up leaders, and ordained elders in every church. Now, it was time to head for home. They passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. Pisidia and Pamphylia were regions. They passed through those regions and went back to Perga.

(Acts 14:24-25) “They passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia. {25} When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.”

Perga is where they landed after leaving the island of Cyprus. On their first time at Perga, it appears that they disembarked, and then went on to Pisidian Antioch. This time, they came and spoke the word of God.

(Acts 13:13-14) “Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem. {14} But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.”

Why did they go to Perga? On their first stop at Perga, it may have been the ships destination. On their journey home, they may have come back to Perga to catch a ship back to Antioch. It could be that there was not a ship departing from Perga to Antioch, and they heard there was one leaving from Attalia, so after speaking the word in Perga, they went on to Attalia. We do not know those details. We do know a little bit about Perga. First, Perga was a leading city, and had been a capital at one time. It was located between two rivers ( Catarrhactes and Cestrus). It was renowned for the worship of Artemis, and there was a temple for Artemis on a hill outside the town. At Lystra, Barnabas and

Paul were called Zeus and Hermes after the lame man was healed. Zeus was the chief God, and Hermes was his spokesman. In Greek mythology, Artemis was the daughter of Zeus. The coins of Perga represented both Artemis and the temple. We do not know exactly why they went to Perga, but we do know that it became an important center of Christianity during the reign of Constantine the Great (324-337). Paul planted seeds in Perga and in Rome, and they bore fruit for centuries.

When they arrived at Perga, they spoke the word. **All of us are called to speak the word.** We are called to speak the word to our families when they rise up and when they lie down. We are called to speak the word to our neighbors. We are called to speak the word to our co-workers. Everywhere we go, we should speak the word. For us to speak the word, there are two important keys. **First, we need to be full of God's word.** We must be ready in season and out of season. We need to store God's word on our hearts. We should share the word out of the overflow of God's word in our lives. Let me encourage all of us to spend time in God's word every day.

**Second, we need boldness to share His word with others.** Pray for opportunities. Pray for boldness to share the word. And, be courageous and share the word wherever you go. That is what Barnabas and Paul did. They are on their way home, but they were not so focused on getting home that they neglected to share the word on their way. They made the most of every opportunity, and Perga was another opportunity to sow the word of God into the hearts of the people in that town.

**Third, we need people.** Ministry involves people. We cannot live isolated lives and have an effective ministry. We must be with people. Jesus did not isolate Himself. He spent time with people. He spent time with those who were open and receptive to the gospel. He ate with the tax collectors, prostitutes, and other sinners. He was continually touching the lives of those around Him. It is sometimes difficult in the East Mountains to touch people. Our homes and properties have fences around them. We like our space and privacy. We have to find ways to be with people.

(Mark 2:16-17) "When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to His disciples, "Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?" {17} And hearing this, Jesus \*said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

One day, when I was playing professional golf, the Holy Spirit taught me this principle. I was out at a driving range, and the man next to me had never played golf before. He did not ask me to help him; he asked his friend to help him. I listened to the man help him, and it was obvious that the blind was leading the blind; he did not know much either. But, because of his relationship with the other man, he had an opportunity to share. I was one of the top golfers in the world and could have really helped the man, but I did not have a relationship, so I did not get asked to help. I could have been more bold and asked the man if he would like for me to help him. God could have easily opened a door of opportunity. But, as I was watching the man blindly help his friend, the Holy Spirit was speaking to me about the importance of relationship in ministry. Ministry flows out of relationship.

Let's look at another example. When Paul went to Philippi, he went to the river, supposing that there would be a prayer meeting there. He normally went to the synagogue, but there were not enough Jews in Philippi to have a synagogue. In places where there was not a synagogue, the Jews would gather by a river and pray. Paul, being a Jew, knew that any Jews in the area would go to the river on the Sabbath and pray. So, Paul went to the river. He went where the people could be found.

(Acts 16:13) “And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.”

While I was headed out of town last Sunday after church, I noticed that the motorcross area between Edgewood and Moriarty was packed full of people. That was where a lot of people were hanging out. We need to be involved in our community, so we can touch the lives of those around us. We will have opportunities to share the word with others through the relationships we develop with them.

From Perga, Barnabas and Paul went down to Attalia. It was a coastal city, and is known for its beautiful blue waters. Today, it is a very popular resort city. The name has been changed to Antalya, and it is part of Turkey. From the text it appears that Barnabas and Paul went there just to catch a ship sailing to Antioch. Their primary mission had been completed and they were now on their way home. Antioch was home to them. It was at Antioch that they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished.

(Acts 14:25-26) “When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. {26} From there they sailed to Antioch, from which they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had accomplished.”

One year, my entire family traveled the west coast with me. We left home in August and I played in Texas, Kansas, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, California, and Oregon. In October, after three long months on the road, we finally headed home. We had been living in hotels all that time and eating restaurant food. We could not wait to get home. We left Oregon at 3:30 in the morning and drove to Wyoming, arriving at 10:00 at night. On the second day, we left at 5:30 in the morning, and drove sixteen hours that day. On the third day, we drove fourteen hours and made it home at nightfall. We pushed hard because we couldn't wait to get home. We were so excited to get home, sleep in our own beds, and eat home-cooked food. The west coast swing had been nice, but we were so glad to get home. I imagine that Barnabas and Paul felt the same way. They had been on the road for quite some time and couldn't wait to get home. I think that when they got to Attalia, they weren't thinking about swimming in the crystal clear blue water at the beach. They were thinking about getting to the ship in time and setting sail for home. Luke records that they had accomplished the work that they had been commended to do. The mission was accomplished, and they were homeward bound.

### **3. Gave Account**

I was in Midland, Texas last week teaching a class. I got done with the class late Thursday afternoon. I did not have enough time to drive all the way back to Albuquerque, so I drove to Roswell and spent the night with other aliens. I got up Friday morning and drove the rest of the way back to Albuquerque. When I arrived back at my office, I was not finished with my mission. There were other things that I had to do to wrap things up. I had to post the grades of the students on a spreadsheet. I had to upload their certificates to our network. I have to report my mileage and expenses to the accounting department. These reports are required and my trip is not over until all these other tasks have been finished.

In the same way, even though Barnabas and Paul had accomplished the work that they had been commended to do, and they had arrived home, not everything had been wrapped up. They had been commended to this work by the church in Antioch. Now, they would need to give account to the church in Antioch for what had been accomplished. We read that when they arrived and had gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them, and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. They gave account of the work that had been done. **God requires us to give account for what we do.** They gave a testimony. This was an opportunity to glorify God, and to encourage the brethren at Antioch. I don't think it was an hour and a half meeting. I think they had a lot more to say than could be said in an hour and a half meeting.

(Acts 14:27) "When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles."

I want to mention several things about this verse. First, it was the church that sent them out and it was the church that they reported back to. Many missions groups today form their own missionary organizations. They go to churches to raise money, but they are not accountable to churches. There are many parachurch organizations that operate outside the local church. I can understand the rationale behind much of this. They want the support of all the Christian churches, and if they are tied to any one church, other churches won't support them. That is unfortunate in two ways. It is unfortunate that churches don't work together and support one another. It is unfortunate that parachurch organizations operate independently from the primary way that God has ordained to bring His kingdom here on earth.

At EMVC, we want to support missions groups like Follow The Son Bible Club, CareNet, and other groups, even if they are not part of our church. We also want to develop relationships with them, and have the groups come and report back to us what work has been accomplished by them. We want to support these groups, and also support the work of other churches. Many apostles today are part of apostolic networks. They are not giving account to the local church. Many of them are not even involved in a local church. I believe this is wrong. I believe that apostles should be sent out of local churches. I believe they should be supported by local churches. I believe they should give account to the local churches. That is what I see in Scripture.

Another point I want to make is that most people do not like giving account to anyone. A few years ago, when we were starting up our Life Groups, there was a man and woman who told us that they wanted to lead a Life Group. When I told them that we expect the Life Group leaders to give account of their Life Group meetings, they left the church. That was over the top; it was too much for them. They grew up in an independent and rebellious culture. They got saved while they were hippies in the sixties and seventies. Our generation did not want to submit or give account to anyone. One thing that we must learn is that we are stewards, not owners. Our lives are not our lives; we belong to God. It is He who has made us. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

(Ps 100:3) "Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture."

**Our own lives and ministries are a stewardship from God.** God has entrusted us with the gifts that He has given to each of us. Peter wrote that just "as each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." That means that we will



have to give account to God for what we do with our spiritual gifts and ministries. As a teacher of God's word, I try to be a good steward of this gift. When the day comes that I must give account, I can show the Lord how I used my gift to further His kingdom. The day I give account is not a terrible thing to dread. I look forward to it. God promises to reward us, so that is something to look forward to. Giving account is a good thing, not something to dread or avoid.

(1 Pet 4:10) "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

As a pastor of a Vineyard church, I have to give account to the Vineyard each year. I have to give account of our average attendance. I have to give account of the number of people saved and baptized. As a leader in this church, I must also to give account to God for what goes on at this church. I have to give account for all those that God has entrusted to my care. In Hebrews 13:17, God tells us that the leaders of a church must give account for the souls of those that they watch over. We take that seriously. We do watch over the souls of those we have been entrusted with. We pray over you. You belong to God, and we are shepherding on His behalf.

(Heb 13:17) "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."

In Mark 6, the Lord sent out the twelve apostles. What did they do when they returned from their ministry assignment? Luke writes, "when the apostles returned, they reported to Him all that they had done and taught." They gave an account to Jesus. Jesus had sent them out, and they gave account to Jesus when they returned.

(Mark 6:30) "The apostles gathered together with Jesus; and they reported to Him all that they had done and taught."

Barnabas and Paul had been commended to this work by the church in Antioch. It was God who had called them. The Holy Spirit told them to set aside Barnabas and Paul. But, they had been sent out by the church, and when they returned, it was only right to give account and report all that God had done through them on this first trip.

(Acts 14:27) "When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles."

Giving account has lots of other benefits. The church at Antioch was blessed by their testimonies. **Testimonies build up our faith. Testimonies encourage and motivate us.** We encourage people to give testimonies. If you have a testimony to share, please let your Life Group leader know. Let me know so that we can allocate time for you to share. Everyone is blessed when you share your testimonies of all that God has done in you and through you.

Notice in Mark 6 what happened after they gave account to the Lord. Jesus said to the twelve apostles, "come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while." They had been pouring out into other people, and now they needed to rest and get recharged. This is an ongoing process. We pour out into other people, and we need to get away to recharge and get refilled.

(Mark 6:31) “And He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a secluded place and rest a while.” (For there were many people coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat.)”

After Barnabas and Paul had given account to the church at Antioch, they spent a long time with the disciples. I believe it was a time of rest for Barnabas and Paul. God was not done with them yet. They were recharging before being sent out again. Notice that their rest and time of recharging involved spending time with the disciples. This was their home. The disciples were their friends and family. Today, many people skip church when they get tired. They skip church so that they can rest and recharge. What they don't realize is that **one of the best ways of getting recharged and refreshed is spending time with the disciples**. There is a reason that God tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves as is the habit of some. Instead, we are to encourage one another. The fellowship and encouragement that we get from spending time with our brothers and sisters spiritually recharges us. Having times of physical rest is an excellent thing. God tells us to do our work in six days and rest on the seventh. God wants us to have weekly rest, so we can get physically and spiritually recharged. Americans live for the weekends. Unfortunately, many people go to work on Monday thoroughly exhausted. We must find a way to get physical and spiritual rest. I believe that Barnabas and Paul spent time fellowshiping and getting recharged.

(Acts 14:28) “And they spent a long time with the disciples.”

## Conclusion

The first apostolic trip for Barnabas and Paul was over. They had gone out and preached the gospel in places that had never heard the gospel. They had followed their plan of reaching out to the Jews first and then to the Greeks. They had gone to the geographic regions that God had placed on their hearts. They had spent time making disciples. They had raised up leaders and ordained elders in every church. They had returned to Antioch, where they had been commended by the Lord for this work. They had reported all the things that the Lord had accomplished by them. After they had wrapped up everything on this first trip, they spent time with the disciples getting refreshed and recharged.

As we wrap things up this morning, we are going to have a time of corporate prayer. Our corporate time of prayer is not canned or rehearsed. The leader of corporate prayer spends time seeking the Lord about the direction for our prayer time. Pastor Bill Bice will be leading us this morning. I encourage you to stay for corporate prayer. I encourage you to participate. Agree with others who are praying. There is power in agreement. If the Lord puts something on your heart, raise your hand and an usher will bring a microphone to you. We may not like using microphones, but they help others to hear us and agree with us.

**Introduction** (Acts 14:1-7, Acts 9:15, Col 1:28-29, Acts 14:23-28)**1. Appointed elders** (Acts 14:23, 1 Tim 3:1-7, Tit 1:5-11, Acts 11:30, 20:17, 1 Pet 5:1-3, Heb 13:17)

- There are three Greek words that refer to the same \_\_\_\_\_.
- Presbuteros means an \_\_\_\_\_ man.
- An elder is to be above \_\_\_\_\_ in his character, and in his family life. An elder must also be a person of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Episkopos means to see over or \_\_\_\_\_.
- An elder must be a good \_\_\_\_\_.
- Poimano means to \_\_\_\_\_.
- An elder must not only have the qualifications, but the inward \_\_\_\_\_ for that office.
- A church will not be set in order until elders have been \_\_\_\_\_.

**2. Returned to Antioch** (Acts 14:24-26, 13:13-14)

- All of us are called to speak the \_\_\_\_\_.
- First, we need to be \_\_\_\_\_ of God's word.
- Second, we need \_\_\_\_\_ to share His word with others.
- Third, we need \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 2:16-17, Acts 16:13)

**3. Gave Account** (Acts 14:27-28, Heb 13:17, Mark 6:30-31)

- God requires us to give \_\_\_\_\_ for what we do. (Ps 100:3)
- Our own lives and ministries are a \_\_\_\_\_ from God. (1 Pet 4:10)
- Testimonies build up our \_\_\_\_\_.
- Testimonies \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ us.
- One of the best ways of getting recharged and refreshed is spending time with the \_\_\_\_\_.

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