

Acts 14: Paul's Church planting Modus Operandi

Overview of the Great Commission, Acts and Jesus building His Church.

Acts 1:8 ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Matthew 28:18-20 ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in ^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Acts 3:18-21 ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

In Acts 13 we looked at the goal of Christian communities is to plant more Christian communities.

It cannot be overstated that the underlying assumption of the Apostles is the knowledge of the collapse of the Roman empire, the coming destruction of Jerusalem and it's temple, and their goal to set up Christian communities. (societies)

Cycle of filled with the Holy Spirit, preaching/evangelism, signs of the Holy Spirit, opposition/persecution, filling of the Holy Spirit.

Vss 1-7

Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ⁴ But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. ⁵ When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, ⁶ they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, ⁷ and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Vs 23

Vs 23 “and when they had appointed elders for them in every church...”

Paul and Barnabas travel from Antioch in Pisidia (to go to the Gentiles) to Iconium where they preached in the Synagogues.

“A great number of Jews and Greeks believed” when preaching at the synagogue.

They are filled with the HS, preach in Iconium, get opposition, signs of the HS, filled with the HS more.

As Paul and Barnabas get to Derbe, it would have been easier to travel back to Antioch in Syria than to retrace their steps.

Vs 23 “and when they had appointed elders for them in every church...

Church plants should be self-sustainable (as soon as possible)

Paul is very concerned with getting the individual churches to a point of self-sustainability.

*I believe mainly in their government, teaching, economy.
This is how God intends for*

With those things you should expect growth which would lead subsequent church plants.

Government – each church was appointed elders to rule and govern. (Lead by example, 1 Cor 6)

Teaching – each church was to have its own personal teachers to exhort the Gospel. (mega church multi campus, raising up teacher from inside)

Economy – each church was to collect a tithe for its own sustainability. (1 Timothy 5)

In a Christian community, there is no catapult to growth like opposition.

“But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers”

*This is almost always the first step of the Jews in Acts and anyone who is against Christian community.
If it was a loner Christian, they wouldn't care.*

13:45 “when the Jews saw crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul”

So Paul and Barnabas stay for a while to combat the arguments.

2 Corinthians 10:5 “We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

Pastors/leaders must be ready to engage these arguments.

It is one of the qualifications in Titus for elders. 1 Timothy 3 says “able to teach”

Titus 1:9-11 ⁹ He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

¹⁰ For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. ¹¹ They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.”

That's why Paul tells Timothy in his 2nd letter

²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. ³For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, ⁴and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

1 Timothy 4:13

Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

That's what we need.

Call to the Table