

PATTERNS OF MISSION FROM ACTS AND THE GOSPELS

Patterns of mission from the Book of Acts?

I. How the gospel was shared, disciples made, and churches planted through ordinary followers of Jesus?

- **Acts 2:47**
The first church at 3,000 people, “And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”
- **Acts 4:4**
Only days later, “But many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.”
- **Acts 6:7**
“And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”
- **Acts 8:1, 4**
After the stoning of Stephen, “And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.” “Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”
- **Acts 9:31**
After Saul is converted, “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”
- **Acts 11:19-21**
Due to the scattering from the persecution of Stephen, people traveled speaking to no one except Jews. “But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus Christ.”

II. What can we observe from the patterns of mission exemplified through the disciples in the early church?

Read the following passages and consider the following questions: (1) Who did the work? (2) Where were they working? (3) How did they work? (4) What were the results of their work? (5) How long were they there? (5) Why did they leave?

- Acts 13:1-12

- Acts 13:13-52
- Acts 14:8-20
- Acts 15:39-16:40
- Acts 17:1-15
- Acts 17:16-34
- Acts 18:1-21
- Acts 19:1-20:1

These same questions that help us observe the patterns of the disciples in the Book of Acts can be helpful in determining how disciples of Jesus might practice mission through the church today. (1) Who among us could do the work? (2) Where could we work that would allow us to be most faithful to the patterns seen in the New Testament? (3) How should we work in imitation of Jesus, Paul, and the other disciples? (4) What should be our expectations? (5) How long should we remain in a community where we have been working? (6) What are the markers we might look for that would cue us to leave?

Patterns of mission from the Gospels?

III. How did Jesus send out his disciples in the Gospels? What are some of the similarities or differences in the disciples' patterns of mission in the Book of Acts?

Read the following passages on how Jesus sent his disciples and consider what Jesus told his disciples *to do* and what he told them *not to do*.

Sending the 12 disciples.

- **Matthew 9:35-10:1-42**
- **Mark 6:7-13, 30-31**
- **Luke 9:1-6, 10**

Sending the 72 other disciples.

- **Luke 10:1-24**

Sending through the commissions.

- **John 20:21**
- **Matt 28:18-20**
- **Luke 24:36-49; Acts 1:1-11**