The Church on the Move: a Mission Community (Acts 13 – 14)

Introduction

- Roughly how many unevangelised people live in the world today?
- If you live in Afghanistan, how often are you likely to hear the gospel?
- What does Jesus tell us to do about the unevangelised in Matthew 9:37-38?
- What do the early church do in Acts 13 14?

i Mission starts with worship (Acts 13:1-3)

- What does v1 show us about the Antioch church community?
- What does this teach about how God gives his gifts?
- What are the church doing in v2?
- What then happens?
- What is the church's response in v3?
- What does this show us?
- What did the missionary Henry Martyn say about this?
- What should you do if you do not have much of a heart for mission?
- What should you do if you have never worshipped the Lord?

ii Mission demands sacrifice (Acts 13:3-5)

- What did Barnabas and Saul sacrifice to go on God's mission in v4?
- What should we think of missionaries who have made great sacrifices to serve the Lord elsewhere?

- What did the Antioch church sacrifice to send Barnabas and Saul on God's mission?
- What does God want from churches today?
- What should you do if you are unwilling to make any sacrifice for the sake of world mission?

iii Mission involves partnership (Acts 14:26-28)

- What did the Antioch church do for Paul and Barnabas when they set off on mission according to v26?
- What does this mean?
- Who could we do the same thing for today?
- What did the Christians at Antioch do when Paul and Barnabas returned in v27?
- List a number of ways in which you could partner with a missionary.

iv Mission aims at God's glory (Acts 14:27)

- Whose mission did Paul and Barnabas go on according to Acts 13:2?
- Who actually accomplishes the work they carry out according to v27?
- Who must receive all the glory, then?
- How much do you want God to be glorified?
- What other aims might come into our lives?

Conclusion

 Why does the church need to be an empowered community, a proclaiming community, a devoted community, a persecuted community, a praying community, a caring community, a holy community, an international community and a mission community?