



Grace Assembly Of God

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER BIBLE READING DEVOTIONAL

Scripture:	Acts 13	Title:	Minister to the Lord First
Author	Ps Li Cuixian		
Summary of Chapter	It is the inaugural mission trip for Paul and Barnabas. The Holy Spirit appointed and set them apart to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ from town to town. They were empowered by the Holy Spirit and preached with boldness and authority.		

Key Verse(s) NASB How does it speak to me?

<p>²While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.</p>	<p>The believers were together and ministering to the Lord. It is at this occasion that the Holy Spirit appointed and set Paul and Barnabas apart for the work He had called them to. Allow me to draw your attention to what they were doing. They were ministering to the Lord. This is the basic duty of any follower of God, to minister to the Lord. Ministering to the Lord means doing what pleases Him and honors Him, which includes worship, prayer, fasting, listening to and obeying God.</p> <p>As a servant of God, when I minister to Him first , then I can minister to others by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It is so important to be still before God and seek His face. I find that when I spend time with God in prayer and fasting, I can align myself to Him more easily. I experienced that many times during my full-time ministry.</p> <p>At the beginning of my full-time in the Youth, I was appointed to take charge of the Youth Worship ministry. From a human perspective, I am the least competent person to lead this ministry. I do not even know how to read scores nor play any instruments. "Do re me" sound the same to me. I sing 3-bit songs in 4-bits. In other words, I am a music noob. How I wish the gift of music could somehow be endowed upon me! Sadly, that did not happen.</p> <p>However, I had a strange sense of peace to take up this appointment, I believed that was because I had spent time with God, seeking His face, depending on Him and following His leading. Whenever I sought His face, He revealed His plan to me and the leaders who were serving with me. Slowly but surely, leaders were raised, discipleship was instilled, and training programs were developed.</p> <p>The theme of today's scripture is what I instill in the ministry, we are to minister unto the Lord! To worship Him, to love Him, to adore Him, to honour Him, to follow Him. I encouraged them to make every rehearsal, whether individually or as a team, a time of ministry unto the Lord.</p> <p>I remembered on one occasion when we were preparing for an evangelistic gig and were running out of time for our rehearsals and perfecting our pieces. There was a Worship Pastor in town, I made the call to halt rehearsal to attend the rally instead. I was recently reminded by that leader who was in-charged of that event how he was impacted by my decision to put God first. As we put our priority right, seeking Him first, the Lord will do His own work through us. The gig was not jeopardized, our performers did exceptionally well, everyone was one in spirit; people came, heard the Gospel and experienced God.</p> <p>Ministering to the Lord is the duty of every believer. When we take time to minister to the Lord, the Holy Spirit will set us apart and empower us for His work.</p>
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APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult:	How are you ministering to the Lord? What is he saying and how are you obeying Him?
Youth:	What is one action step you can take this week to cultivate a regular habit of spending time with God and hearing from Him? Share your plan with someone who can keep you accountable.
Child:	Choose a song to sing to God today. Or talk to God about your day and hear what he has to say.

PRAYER

Praying Scripture:	Lord, this is the desire of our heart, to minister to you in worship, prayer, fasting and obedience! Help us to give attention to what is important, and not be distracted by the things that take our eyes off you. When we minister to You, You will minister through us.
Thanksgiving Prayer:	I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)
Intercessory Prayer:	I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)
Salvation Prayer:	I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.