

SEPARATED FOR SERVICE

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

SEPARATED FOR SERVICE

Bible Texts: Acts 13

Teacher; Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Our heavenly Father, we thank You for Your direction tonight, we pray and ask that You would keep us from all danger and prepare a place for us in You tonight in Jesus Christ Name. Amen.

Study

This was an account of what happened in the church at Antioch, there were certain prophets and teachers. It is the right thing for prophets and teachers to be inside the church. For God has set them to be there for the equipping of the saints, and all ministered to The Lord and fasted. **Acts 13:2 KJV** *As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.* This proves that no matter the gift and ministry gotten or operated in all are to minister unto The Lord who is the sole source of all we do, this should be done in moments of devotion to The Lord Jesus Christ. For these set of people to be called so, it means God gave them the gift of those ministries and they were at times divinely-inspired and had instructions from heaven upon special occasions, they expounded the scriptures and opened the doctrines of Christ with suitable applications as the ministers to The Lord. The Holy Spirit said *"now separate to me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them"* The Holy Spirit who is God spoke as God, He did not say "separate to God for the work He has called them" but to "Me" the scripture says God is the One that sends His calls.

Romans 11:29 KJV *For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.* It is not that Barnabas and Saul hadn't been working for God before now, at least it is written in **Acts 9:20 KJV** *And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues,*

that he is the Son of God. It is seen here that after Saul's conversion, he immediately started preaching in the synagogue that Jesus is The Son of God. **Acts 9:27-29 KJV** But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. [28] And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. [29] And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. It was Barnabas that brought Saul to the disciples at Jerusalem, which is believed to be the headquarter church when they refused to believe that he was also a disciple. But there is something spectacular about this, it is that most times when Saul preaches, they always tried to kill him, he always fell into dispute with the people. At this point. Peter was already working in the miraculous, in his ministry, because he had already been sent out by The Lord Jesus Christ. *He was ordained by The Lord Himself "upon this rock will I build My church"*. Saul did not only obeyed the general call of evangelism which we are all expected to do immediately we come to know Christ.

Acts 4:36 KJV And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, here, Barnabas is being said to be the son of encouragement, he brought the proceeds of the land he sold to the Apostles, he had been in the system (Christianity) moving in and out among the fold and now in separation for work, he is called out by The Lord. They both had calling but had not started fulfilling their calling until that time. The time was ripe because God already has a time fixed for everything. That is the same way it applies to us, there are many people who are called but have not yet started the work to which God called them to do because the started time is not yet time but are still currently yielding general call, by the time the actual work start, it will bring a great level of success all to the glory of God. We see categorically that God is the One who calls people in special missions and not self, theological schools, family, or Friends. Upon this instruction from The Holy Spirit they fasted and prayed, that should be the source of their power to begin such a work as noble as that, a spiritual work and spiritual preparation is to be made just like the physical preparation being made for physical work. Though the work was not mentioned by The Holy Spirit but it is believed that they already knew that they had the call of God on them, it was

said in **Acts 9:15 KJV** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: that is, for Paul he must bear Christ's name to the gentiles, though he had once been preaching, yet had not begun the work to which he was called, so he had only been gathering experience. From the word "separates them to Me" which The Holy Spirit said, it is clear that there is a place of separation for all of God's servants, they must be separated to Him and Him alone not to have themselves joined to the affairs of the world, as they work under the Spirit's guardian. Ministry itself is a work. **1 Timothy 3:1 KJV** This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. Christ's servants are not idle men, for they are to labour in The Word and Doctrine.

1 Timothy 5:17 KJV Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. Ministry is a serious work. Some think it is easy and not demanding, so they do not have so much reverence for those who do it. The Lord Himself calls it a work and those who do it are called laborers. **1 Timothy 5:18 KJV** For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. The Lord Jesus Christ also said in **Luke 10:7 KJV** And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. then in **1 Corinthians 9:14 KJV** Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel. This is because it is a work. Those who labour in this work are separated to take pains, not to take state, this work is one that is already settled and that which Christ's ministers hitherto have been called to and which they themselves have, first being by an external call directed to and are chosen. We see now that after fasting and praying, the prophets and teachers laid their hands on them and sent them forth, these people did not envy Saul and Barnabas on the special work to which they have been called neither did Paul and Barnabas feel reluctant of being laid hands on by their equals, but these men prayed earnestly for them that they might fulfill their missions, so we read in **Acts 14:26 KJV** And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. They were committed to the grace of God at Antioch by the church, through the prophets and teachers, those who were also filled with The Holy Spirit, only those who are filled with The Holy Spirit can

ordain others according to the leading of The Holy Spirit and not by self. It's a pity today that adulterers and occultists are the ones laying hands on people to ordain them in most churches today, which is against God's will. The spirit in the person who wants to ordain another is very important as it has a long way to go in seeing that such fulfil his calling and also please The Lord.

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