

Embrace
Holy
Living

RE- FLECTING GOD

08/30/12 - Great Churches, Great Leaders

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Acts 12:25-13:12

We sometimes think, "Great leaders build great churches." Looking at the church in Antioch we discover that the opposite is equally true, "Great churches build great leaders."

Believers, fleeing persecution in Jerusalem, started a new church in Antioch. Assessing the needs of this group Barnabas went to Tarsus to secure the help of Saul (soon to be Paul). They provided sound teaching to the fledgling congregation. As Acts 13 opens we learn that "in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers" (v. 1).

This church was also marked by sensitivity to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Earlier they had demonstrated compassion by providing an offering to help their needy brothers and sisters in Jerusalem (11:29). Now the Spirit asked them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for a new phase in their ministry. With fasting and prayer "they placed their hands on them and sent them off" (13:3).

The church still needs great leaders, but those leaders are often called, trained, commissioned, and sent out by great churches. Any church, regardless of size, can be a great church by that measure.