

THE EXAMPLE OF THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH; WEDNESDAY, 11TH MAY, 2022, WEEK IV, EASTER

ACTS 12:24-13:5; PSALM 67; JOHN 12:44-50

In the First Reading of today, we have an account of how the Holy Spirit ministered to the Church at Antioch to set Barnabas and Saul aside for the work to which God had called them.

There are two things I want to draw our attention to.

A. The Church in Antioch were spiritually awake and attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit. It was while they were keeping a fast and offering worship to the Lord that they heard the message of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit continues to speak if only we are attentive and invest more in building our relationship with the Lord. When we are so busy with our mundane pursuits and we occupy our minds with lust and carnal ambition, we find it difficult to hear the voice of the Spirit.

B. Hearing the voice of the Spirit is one thing, obeying what the Spirit says is another. The Church in Antioch heard the voice of the Spirit. It must have been very difficult to let go of Saul and Barnabas but they did. According to the logic of administration, the Church in Antioch needed Saul and Barnabas more at that time but they let go because they understood that the Holy Spirit knows better.

This is the same message that Jesus is reiterating in the Gospel - anyone who hears His message and heeds it is invariably obeying the Father and doing His will.

Dear friends, is there something that the Lord has been telling us to do or not do and we have been struggling with the Holy Spirit?

Let us remember that the Lord knows better than we do and His foolishness is wiser than our greatest wisdom. When we understand this, we shall have more peace, avoid many Christless crosses and gain more in our relationship with God.