

20200105 21 Days – The Point of Hunger

Based on “Prayer, Fasting, and the Course of History” By Pastor John Piper, January 1, 1995

By Eric Mann

This morning I want us to look at a couple of questions.

**What’s the point of being hungry?**

**Why did people fast in the times of the Bible, and why should followers of Jesus fast in our day and age?**

**Acts 13:1–4 (NIV)**

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers:

Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.

The point of giving something up isn’t just to deprive ourselves of something we enjoy; it is to fill that void with a hunger for God and for knowing Him and hearing Him better.

Fast and pray for our church and our community.

Fast and pray for God to grow me and prepare me for how He wants me to be a part of His plans for First Baptist.

Fast and pray for God to help our church overcome our challenges.

(Financial, Leadership, Comfort, Resources, Maturity)

Fast and pray that many in our community will believe in Christ and grow into faithful followers of Jesus this year.

**Four Observations**

1. After Christ’s Coming

2. By a Group Together

3. An Occasion for the Spirit's Special Guidance

4. Changed the Course of History

The Point of Hunger

There are great needs in our lives individually, in our church, in our community, and beyond. Becoming hungry, giving something up that we enjoy and value, creates a void or an emptiness that might be physical or emotional. When we take this emptiness, and ask God to fill it with Himself, and with His voice in our lives, it allows spiritual growth and breakthroughs to happen that don't happen unless there is worship, prayer and fasting.

Will you join me and be a part of hungering for God and for His voice as we go to Him together as a church?