

### **The Saints do the Ministry**

- Ephesians 4:11-14 - 11 And [Jesus] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

### **The Early Spread of Christianity**

- Acts 2 – Pentecost: Saints spread throughout the Empire, Apostles remained in Jerusalem
- Acts 8 – Persecution: Saints spread throughout the region, Apostles remained in Jerusalem
- Acts 9-10 – The Apostles finally move beyond Jerusalem
- Acts 11-28 – Paul and his journeys, 15 years after the Gospel has already been spreading
- Quote: Rodney Stark in *Cities of God* – “...full-time missionaries such as Paul [could] assume the role of advisers and visiting supervisors of local churches built by, and sustained by, local ‘amateurs’...”
  - The role of early church leaders seems to be more as mobilizers, trainers, and coordinators than anything else. They were leaders who raised up leaders to raise up leaders.

### **The Leaders of the Early Church**

- Jesus’ Disciples
  - Three Things to Notice
    - Notice where these leaders came from
    - Notice what kind of people these leaders were
    - Notice how much they changed through Jesus
  - Peter
  - John
  - Thomas
  - Nathaniel (Bartholomew)
  - Matthew
- Leaders After Jesus
  - Mark
  - Luke
  - James, brother of Jesus
  - Priscilla and Aquila
  - Erastus
  - Lydia
  - Paul

### **This Concept of Leadership was Radical**

- Six Common Power Structures in Government
  - Meritocracy – Leaders are chosen for their ability or merit
  - Aristocracy – Leaders are chosen for their birth and bloodline
  - Geniocracy (Noocracy) – Leaders are chosen for their intelligence
  - Kraterocracy – Leaders are chosen for their strength (might makes right)
  - Plutocracy – Leaders are chosen for their wealth
  - Theocracy – Leaders are chosen for their religious skills or connections
- The way Jesus chose his leaders was none of these

### **What Does this Have to Do with Us?**

- 1. The role of your pastors is not that they do all the ministry, or that they do all the leading
  - Their role is to lead leaders who lead leaders who lead leaders...
- 2. You, the saints, are called to do ministry
- 3. You, the saints, are called to leadership
- 4. There are ways you're called to lead that, if you don't step into that, it's just not going to get done

**Where is God calling you to rise up and carry the burden as a leader?**