

A vibrant tropical beach scene. The top half of the image is dominated by lush green palm fronds framing a bright blue sky with a sunburst effect. In the center, the words "FAMOUS FIRSTS" are written in large, bold, brown letters with a white outline and a slight shadow. Below the text, a sandy beach is visible with a white beach chair, a yellow starfish, and a small hut in the distance.

# FAMOUS FIRSTS

*Discovering Who We Are  
by Learning Where We Began  
Understanding Where We are Going  
by Knowing Where We Started*





Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20



# The First Missionaries (Acts 13:1-3)





**NOT the first  
people that  
spread  
the gospel**



# Spreading the Gospel

The Persecuted Church

Philip went

Peter went

The church at Antioch was a  
result of that but this was  
a little different





**The church at Antioch had  
acquired a great deal of talent**

**Barnabas**

**Simeon (Niger)**

**Lucius**

**Manaen**

**Saul (Paul)**



**How easy would it  
have been for them  
to build themselves  
a new island**





**They were doing the  
church thing  
(worshiping and  
fasting--praying)**



# God Spoke





# Barnabas and Saul

Two men were selected

They prayed and fasted more

They set them apart

Gave them their blessing (resources)

The sent them out



# What Changed?

Modern day missions were born

Most of the rest of Acts is  
all about the missions

This team gave birth to others

Churches were started in other cultures

More Islands that sent  
more voyagers





**For the first time the  
church was going not  
out of desperation  
but out  
design**



**While everywhere they  
went they created new  
islands their eyes  
stayed fixed on the  
horizon**





**The Church became  
the supply lines to the  
missionaries**



# Applying to Us

Where are your eyes fixed?





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Matthew 28:19-20



**"Therefore"**  
**(v. 16-18)**





# Therefore

There was no one there but  
the 11 and Jesus

Interesting that some still  
had their doubts

They worshiped Him

He informed them he now  
has full authority

Not build an island



# Makes Voyagers

Go

Make Disciples

Baptize Them

Teach them what  
you have been  
taught

I am with you





# Making the Decision

Its very easy to get excited  
staring at the horizon

Its very difficult to have  
somebody tell you to go

Its very easy to wish  
to change the world

Its very difficult  
to try to save it



**Burn the Boats  
or  
Start to Voyage?**

