

THE CHURCH IN ANTIOCH

Acts 11:19-30

INTRODUCTION

In Acts 11:19-30, Luke continues the theme of the expansion of the gospel message into the Gentile realms beyond Judea. The characteristics of the Holy Spirit, so evident in the early days of the Jewish church, are manifested in the Gentile church as well. Boldness in the face of persecution, mutual care for one another, and the impact of the faith alone in Christ alone gospel transforms the lives of thousands.

THIS WEEK:

This week, discover from Acts 11:19-30 and related passages the spiritual impact the message about the promise of life in Christ has on those who believe and live out the the call of God on their lives.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Acts 11:19-30 and then answering the following questions:

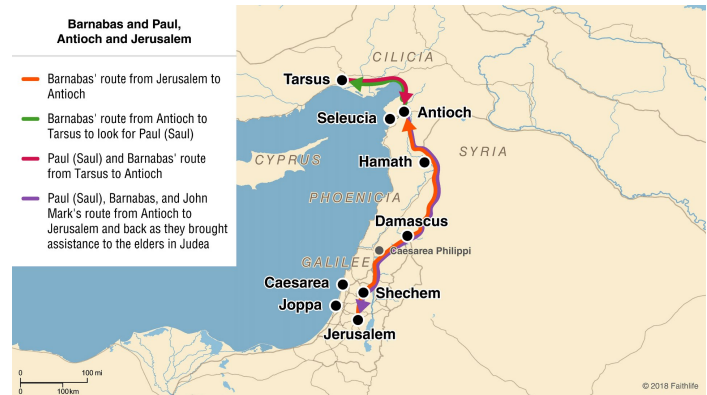
1. Because of persecution from their own countrymen, the believing Jews In Jerusalem were scattered into the regions north of Judea.
 - a. To whom did they speak the gospel message (v. 19)?
 - b. To whom did the believing Jews of these regions eventually speak (v. 20)?
 - c. What was the result (v. 21)?
2. When news about the revival in Antioch reached the Church in Jerusalem, they sent to them a representative who was familiar with that culture:
 - a. Who was this person (v. 22)?
 - b. How does v. 24 describe his character?

3. What three things did this person do to help along the fledgling church (vv. 23-26)?

a. This person... (v.23):

b. This person... (v. 25):

c. This person... (v. 26)



4. Describe the two ways the Jerusalem church and the church in Antioch cooperated together in ministry (vv. 27-30):

a. The Jerusalem church provided ...(vv. 27-28):

b. The Antioch church provided ... (v.29):

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. Sometimes, persecution leads believers to places they would not have gone otherwise, reaching new audiences with the Gospel (cf. Acts 5:17ff; 6:8-15; 8:1-3; 9:1-2). What are some of the ways persecution facilitates the spread of the gospel?

a. Phi 1:12-14:

b. 1 Pet 1:6-7:

c. Acts 16:25-34:

6. The person Jerusalem sent to Antioch was uniquely suited to investigate the happenings in the church there (v. 22). From the following verses, describe some things about this person's character, personality, and cultural background/heritage that made him such a good candidate to bridge the gap between the two groups:
 - a. Acts 4:36-37:
 - b. Acts 9:26-27:
 - c. Acts 13:1:
7. How does the event in Antioch relate to what is promised in Eph 2:13-22 and Gen 12:3?
8. How does the prophecy of Agabus in Acts 11:28, and how the church responded in vv. 29-30 relate to what is taught in 2 Corinthians 8:13-15, 9:6-7?

APPLICATION *Why does it MATTER?*

Now that you have discerned what the passage means, how does it apply to your life?

9. Do you think the message of the gospel would spread more rapidly if it did not cost one something to live it out? Why or why not?
10. What does it mean to you to be called a 'Christian? Give examples of how this identity affects, or has affected your daily life and decisions:

11. Think about a person who has played a role similar to Barnabas or Saul in your life, either as a mentor or someone you've mentored. Who was it and how did this relationship influence your spiritual growth or service in ministry?
12. A passage central to the Christian faith and message is "For God so loved the world that he gave....
 - a. What does prioritizing one's time for God's purposes reveal about one's faithfulness to the gospel?
 - b. What does prioritizing one's gifts for God's purposes reveal about one's faithfulness to the gospel?
 - c. What does prioritizing one's money for God's purposes reveal about one's faithfulness to the gospel?

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?
14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?
15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?