

IMPACT MAKERS

Antioch: Missions Central
Acts 11:19-26
September 8, 2019

But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. - Acts 11:20-21

I. OUTLIERS

- Jesus' command to go to the nations was slow in developing. Persecution sparked the flame (vs. 19; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:6-8; Acts 10).
- New believers from the island of Cyprus and the region of Cyrene broke out of the normal pattern of evangelism and shared with Hellenists in Antioch (vs. 20).

***Hellenists: Greek speaking Jews who lived outside of Palestine (diaspora Jews).**

- God was in this work, and thus it proved to be fruitful (vs. 21).
- Barnabas is sent to assist in the work as a representative from the apostles/church in Jerusalem. He also was from Cyprus (Acts 4:36-37).
- Barnabas did three primary things:
 1. He taught the new believers
 2. He sought out help in Saul of Tarsus
 3. He continued to teach with Saul's help

II. MISSIONS: MAKING DISCIPLES

- People have come to know Christ. What next? Make them into Christ-followers who know and practice the faith. Believers in Christ need a "steadfast purpose" (Matt. 28:19-20; James 1:22-25).
- Christianity, in many ways, "takes shape" in Antioch. A pattern is established that Paul and Barnabas would copy on their own missionary journey (Acts 13:1-5).

KNOW: Regardless of where we are or the circumstances in which we find ourselves, we are called to share the gospel with all people and to train them in faithfulness to the Lord.

DO: Seek opportunities to engage in gospel missions.

Suggested Reading:

Let the Nations Be Glad : The Supremacy of God in Missions by John Piper (LifePoint Library #264 PIP)

From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions by Ruth Tucker

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Acts 11:19-26

1. What is the setting for our text for Sunday? What is taking place, and why?
2. Acts chapter 11 starts with Peter recounting what occurred in and through him in the home of Cornelius, a Roman soldier. What is the connection between that story and our text for Sunday?
3. Why did the church send Barnabas to Antioch?
4. When Barnabas arrived, he saw the grace of God in action. How did that happen away from Jerusalem, and away from the apostles?
5. What was the result of God's work in Antioch? Should we expect similar results today?
6. How will you engage in Christian missions?