



BIBLE STUDY

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Acts 11:19-24

From this point the history records the efforts made to convert the Gentiles.

1. The Preaching in Antioch (19-20)

19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

Antioch

It was famous, because the right of citizenship was granted to the Jews & Greeks. So here they had the privilege of worship, without persecution, as they were citizens.

The interesting part of this city is that it was stained with the vices of a reckless and shameless sensuality. It was as one of the strongholds of Satan; where idols were worshipped, but it was **transformed it into the mother-church of the Gentiles.**

Whereas in Jerusalem, mainly Jews received Jesus, but here in Antioch is where the Christian church starts.

a. Preaching to Jews (19)

To none but unto the Jews only

They did this as they thought that the message was only for the Jewish nation, & not the Gentiles.

b. Preaching to Gentiles (20)

20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

Only the name of the city these men where from is mentioned here. They were anonymous, they were not in the spotlight.

These men apparently didn't care who got the credit for it, they just wanted the work to get done.

Grecians

This word usually denotes in the New Testament "those Jews residing in foreign lands, who spoke the Greek language. They were called Hellenistic Jews, as they only speak Greek & not Aramaic/the Jewish language.

But here the people of Cyprus and Cyrene preached to those who were not Jews, they were Gentiles who didn't know the Lord.

2. God Bless the Work in Antioch (21)

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed and turned unto the Lord.

The hand of the Lord

The meaning is, that God showed them favor, and revealed his power in the conversion of their hearers.

3. Jerusalem Hears of the Actions in Antioch (22)

22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

The interest was there because, this church in Antioch, was different from the other churches, in that it was a mixed body of Jews & Gentiles meeting together to worship.

a. Barnabus Sent (22)

and they sent forth Barnabas

Barnabas being a native of Cyprus would most likely be well known to the Cyprians who were preaching at Antioch, and so he was a most fit person to be selected for this errand.

b. Barnabus Glad & Encourage (23)

23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

They would cleave unto the Lord.

c. Barnabus Credibility (24)

24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

1. **For he was a good man** - It is not said that he was a man of distinguished talents or learning; that he was a splendid or an imposing preacher; but simply that he was a man of an agreeable, kind, and benevolent disposition - a pious, humble man of God.
2. **Full of the Holy Ghost** - Was entirely under the influence of the Holy Spirit.
3. **And of faith** - Confidence in the truth and promises of God.