

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 25: Antioch: A Beautiful Church

READ Acts 11:19-30 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

While all churches express themselves differently depending on culture, preferences etc, there are common features that make a church beautiful in the sight of God and His people, transcending such things. Luke gives us a picture of the church in Antioch to serve as a model for us today. It is a church zealous for evangelism, with encouraging leadership, eager to grow in the Word and willing to serve.

Big idea: God blesses churches that exemplify the same spirit as the church in Antioch.

Questions:

1. From Acts 8:1-4 and 11:19-30 how might persecution aid the gospel?
2. **Challenge question:** If we understand “Hellenists” in v. 20 to mean Gentile-Greeks, what is the significance of vv. 20-21 in relation to Acts 1:8?
3. Why do you think the church in Antioch is well placed as the first international church and as the springboard for the worldwide Christian mission? Think about its location, mixed cultural make up, and religious zeal (see Study Bible for help).
4. The people who scattered because of persecution were unnamed, everyday believers with a zeal to share Christ. Why (biblically) is evangelism every Christian’s responsibility? What implications does this have for our church?

5. What are the character traits in Barnabas, and in his process of discipleship, that you believe made him the ideal person to assess and support the new work in Antioch? See Acts 4:36-37; 9:27; 11:25-26.

How might you learn from Barnabas as you seek to serve our church? What specifically could you do differently or put into action?

6. Why do you think the citizens of Antioch called the believers “Christians” (v. 26)?
7. Read vv. 27-30. How did the church respond to the need in Jerusalem? What is the lesson you learn from this?

Challenge question: How do you determine what needs the church should support and what they should not?

8. Are you currently being “disciplined” or discipling someone within the church? Taking the example from Barnabas what might this practically look like? If you are, would you share your experience with your group?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: God for His gospel that cuts across time, space and culture to save the lost

Thank: God for the faithful, bold witness of past believers that serve as our example

Pray: for the Lord to use you in a greater capacity to help strengthen another’s faith