Antioch

Shawn Jeffries · Acts 11:19–30

INTRODUCTION

- Out of all the churches we can read about in the Bible, this church right here may be the most overlooked.
- This church right here is not one of the more popular churches, but it may be one of the most important churches.
- Before Antioch, we don't read about disciples of Jesus Christ being called Christians. That started right here, and that fact alone makes this church worthy of study.

1 He Saw Church Growth, the Lord's Way

Acts 11:19–21; Acts 2

- He saw growth. He saw church growth, the Lord's way.
- We learn that the gospel can still thrive in a city like this.
- This church in Antioch didn't grow because the Christians who comprised it watered down the gospel.
- This church in Antioch grew because of preaching. It grew because of evangelism.
- We have to be committed to growth, the Lord's way.

2 He Saw Generosity and Benevolence Among the Brethren

Acts 11:27–30; 1 Corinthians 16:1–2

- And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.
- This church in Antioch was comprised of mostly Gentiles while the church in Jerusalem was comprised of mostly Jews.
- They were generous. They were compassionate. They used their resource and their blessings to bless God's people.
- Local church funds, the church's money that is collected on the first day of the week, it can be used for the benevolent needs of God's people.
- The reason why this church uses its funds solely to help needy Christians here and elsewhere is because this church is committed to following the Bible.

3 He Saw a Lot of Diversity

Acts 11:19–20; Acts 13:1–3

- Now there were at Antioch in the church that was there, prophets and teachers. Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene and Menae, who've been brought up with Herod the Tetrarch and Saul.
- This is a group of guys that consist of Jews, black men, rich men, and a former persecutor of the church.

- The gospel is so powerful, it is so dynamic, it is so convicting, it is so glorious that it can bring a group of guys like this together.
- It is the very first racially diverse church that we can read about in the Bible.
- God wants the emphasis to be on souls, not on the color of skin.

4 Barnabas Also Saw Acceptance

Acts 11:23–26

- God's people were accepting folks, not their sins, but accepting them as brothers and sisters when they obeyed the gospel despite their past mistakes.
- When he found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers.
- The same Saul that's responsible for many of these people being in Antioch in the first place.
- It seems that the brethren there in Antioch, they immediately accepted him.
- They allowed him to serve there and grow spiritually there and develop into the great apostle Paul.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If you're willing to repent and turn away from your sins and be immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins, the Lord will wash away your sins and add you to his body, his church.**

MY NOTES