

## Acts 11:19-30

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 3-29-17

### Context

#### III. Foundations for World Mission (6:8-12:24)

- A. Stephen the martyr (6:8-7:60)
- B. Philip the evangelist (8:1-40)
- C. The conversion of Saul (9:1-31)
- D. The conversion of Cornelius (9:32-11:18)
- E. Expansion and opposition (11:19-12:24)**

#### Expansion: the Church in Antioch

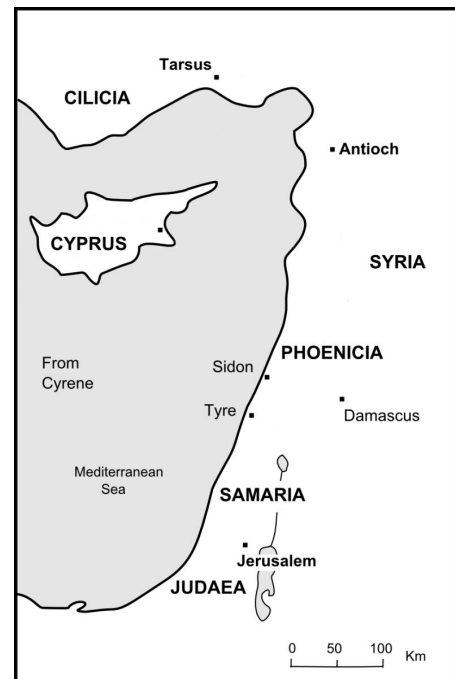
Repetition: “to the Greeks also” (vv. 18 and 20) - indicates \_\_\_\_\_

- Cf. Romans 1:16; 2:9-10; 3:29; 9:24; 10:12; I Cor. 1:24; 12:13; Col. 3:11)
- The goal (cf. Ephesians): One new \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

#### Four dimensions of the Gentile Mission

\_\_\_\_\_ by unnamed evangelists (vv. 19-21)

- Resumes from ch. 8:1 → 11:19
  - Persecution > Dispersion
    - The Gospel was preached (8:4; 11:19)
    - The evangelists were left unnamed (except Philip)
    - Church expands
- Expansion was both geographical and cultural
  - Geographically: North of “Judea and Samaria” (8:1b) as far as “Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch” (11:19)
  - Culturally: Movement from the Jews only (v. 19) to the Greeks also (v. 20)
  - Antioch
    - Founded in 300 b.c.
    - 15 miles to the E of Seleucia
    - “Antioch the Beautiful”
    - Cosmopolitan population of 500,000
    - Was a significant location for military, trade, and cultural purposes.
    - Josephus: “Third City of Rome” (after Rome and Alexandria).
  - Bold expansion was blessed richly by God (v. 21)



\_\_\_\_\_ by Barnabas (vv. 22-24)

- News of this expansion reached those in Jerusalem (cf. 8:14; 11:1)
- Barnabas
  - William Barclay: “the man with the biggest heart in the church”

- First mentioned in 4:36 - generosity
- 11:24 - “a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith”
- V. 23 - “...began to encourage them all **with resolute heart** to remain true to the Lord”
- V. 24 - “And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.”
  - “Brought” is lit. “added” = Luke’s go-to word for \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. 2:41, 47; 5:14)
    - Προσετέθη (prosetethē) from προστίθημι (prostithēmi) - “to add to” - “prosthesis”
    - Theological \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ did the adding!
    - The Lord adds members to his own body (2:47 → 11:24)

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\_\_\_\_\_ by Saul (vv. 25-26)

- V. 25 - Looking for Saul in Tarsus (since 9:28-30; cf. Galatians 1:21ff. preaching in Samaria and Cilicia)
  - “Look” = prepositional compound, meaning “to seek up and down, back and forth, to make a thorough search until success comes.”
- Connection between v. 24 and v. 26 - “considerable numbers” \_\_\_\_\_ ...  
“considerable numbers” \_\_\_\_\_
- Christ-centered teaching - v. 26 - *Christianoi*
  - Like *Herodianoī* (Herodians) and *Kaisarianoi* (Caesar’s people)
  - Cf. Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16.
  - Disciples = followers of Christ; his people; his servants above all else

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\_\_\_\_\_ by good works (vv. 27-30)

- Vv. 27-28 - Agabus’ prophecy of famine during the reign of Claudius (AD 41-54)
  - Josephus: “Many people died for want of what was necessary to procure food.”
  - Luke’s concern = the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church in Antioch
- Vv. 29-30 - the reversal of roles
  - We need the Bible to inform us as to how we handle the connection of “ability” to “need”
    - NOT government redistribution of wealth
    - IS willful, reciprocal, self-giving love within a familial context
      - V. 29 - the “\_\_\_\_\_” in Judea
- Beautiful picture of:
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of God for his people
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ nature of self-giving love in the church
  - Jewish-Gentile \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ