



Viral: How the Gospel Spread Then and Now
Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 11:19-26

November 20th and 23rd, 2025
Accountability, Encouragement, and Instruction

Introduction:

Acts 11:19-26 ESV

¹⁹Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

God is on the side of those who preach Jesus.

Acts 11:22-26 “Three parts of discipleship: Accountability, Encouragement, and Instruction” – Christ-Centered Exposition, Exalting Jesus in Acts, Tony Merida, B&H Publishing 2017.

²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

Accountability: Spiritual maturity comes through spiritual community.

²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful (dwell) to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Encouragement: Let your presence strengthen others, not burden them.

²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Instruction: Biblical truth doesn't just inform, it transforms.

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Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What is your favorite Thanksgiving food item?

Read Aloud: Acts 11:19-16

1. v.20-21 “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. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.” Have you asked God to help you with a ‘hand’ to preach Jesus? What holds you back from sharing your faith in Jesus?

2. v.22-26 “²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful (dwell) to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.”

Who in your life is holding you accountable? Is it working? Why or why not?

Are you a voice of encouragement or discouragement? How does encouragement to remain in Jesus change us?

What Biblical instruction have you applied to your life recently?