

Title: Behind the Scenes

Text: Acts 11:19-30

KEY VERSE: "...for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord." Acts 11:24

HOMILETICAL IDEA: God uses people who see grace—good people full of the Holy Spirit and of faith to propel the Church to its future.

Hook: "Scene Change"

Date: 04.30.23

Form: Inductive

Outline

1. New scene for the Church – Acts 11:19-24
2. New scene for an Outsider – Acts 11:24-26
3. New scene for the Future – Acts 11:27-30

Introduction

"School plays, Stagehands, and Scene Changes"

TEXT:

1. New scene for the Church – Acts 11:19-24

¹⁹ Now 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. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists^[a] 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. 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 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.

Acts 11:19-24

Barnabas...the stagehand

³⁶ Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷ sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:36-37

And the hand of the Lord was with them and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. vs. 21

²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose

Acts 11:23

And he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose...

Acts 11:23

2. New scene for an Outsider – Acts 11:24-26

²⁴for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶and 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.

Acts 11:24-26

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch

Acts 11:19

⁵⁸Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And Saul approved of his execution. ^{8:1}And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ²Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Acts 7:58 - 8:3

But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Acts 9:22

But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 9:27

So the believers took him to the port in Caesarea, and sent him home, back to Tarsus

Acts 9:30

he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

Acts 9:15

For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Acts 11:26

3. New scene for the Future – Acts 11:27-30

²⁷Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). ²⁹So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 11:27-30