

LIBERTY FOR ALL! – Acts 11:1-24

(v.1-3)

(John 8:36) Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

(Isaiah 11:10) "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

(v.4-17)

(Matthew 16:23b) "You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

The brethren in Jerusalem opposed Peter because they were "mindful" of the things of men, rather than the things of God!

(v.18) "*Silence is golden*," when God has spoken.

(2 Chronicles 34:26b-27) 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel: "Concerning the words which you have heard — because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you," says the Lord.

A hardened heart mutes our prayers, a humble heart puts them on "blast!"

(Psalm 66:18-19) If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.

When God's word is *honored*, He is "glorified!"

We are on the same team!

(Mark 9:38-40) Now John answered Him, saying, "Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him

because he does not follow us." But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is on our side.

Jesus is the third cord in our relationships. (Ecclesiastes 4:12) Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

This is true "liberty." (Romans 10:13) For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

(v.19-24).

All of this by the "hand" of the Lord! (v.21b)

(Psalm 80:14-15) Return, we beseech You, O God of hosts; Look down from heaven and see, And visit this vine And the vineyard which Your right hand has planted, And the branch that You made strong for Yourself.

(v.22-24) Antioch investigation. Barnabas sees the grace of God among them.

(1 John 4:11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. "Liberation" gives us "freedom" to love others.

"faith working through love" – Galatians 5:6.

Barnabas "encouraged" them. Follow the Lord with "purpose" of heart. (v.23b)

"Intentionality," makes Jesus a "reality!"- 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

CONCLUSION: True "liberty" - (Romans 6:20-23) For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the

wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Extreme “Social distancing.” (John 15:13) Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

The **“greatest”** act of social distancing the cross!

(2 Corinthians 3:17) Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. “FOR ALL!”