

ORDINARY TO DO THE EXTRAORDINARY
Acts 11:19-30 (NLT)

❖ The Truth of Today:

- God uses ORDINARY PEOPLE to do the EXTRAORDINARY.

Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews. ²⁰However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. ²¹The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord. ²²When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord. ²⁴Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. ²⁶When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching large crowds of people. (It was at Antioch that the believers were first called Christians.) ²⁷During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.) ²⁹So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. ³⁰This they did, entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.

Acts 11:19-30 (NLT)

❖ How does God use ordinary people to do the extraordinary?

- It is through His POWER.

The power of the Lord was with them...

Acts 11:21a (NLT)

Listen! The Lord's arm is not too weak to save you.

Isaiah 59:1 (NLT)

... a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.

Acts 11:21b (NLT)

And many people were brought to the Lord.

Acts 11:24b (NLT)

... teaching large crowds of people...

Acts 11:26b (NLT)

❖ To See God's Power Work Within You:

1. Ordinary people Must SHARE the extraordinary GOSPEL.

Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews.

Acts 11:19 (NLT)

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

Acts 8:4 (ESV)

However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus.

Acts 11:20 (NLT)

The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.

Acts 11:21 (NLT)

2. The ordinary must GROW in God's extraordinary GRACE.

When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

Acts 11:22 (NLT)

When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy...

Acts 11:23a (NLT)

"Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

Matthew 7:20 (NLT)

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. ²²But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

Galatians 5:19-23 (NLT)

Show mercy to those whose faith is wavering.

Jude 1:22 (NLT)

... and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord.

Acts 11:23b (NLT)

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith..

Acts 11:24a (NLT)

3. Ordinary people will GIVE what GOD has given.

During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.)

Acts 11:27-28 (NLT)

So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could.

Acts 11:29 (NLT)

So the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea.

Acts 11:29 (ESV)

"I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."

Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT)

It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NLT)

❖ God has SHAPED you to give:

S – SPIRITUAL GIFTS – 1 Corinthians 12:11

It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NLT)

H – HEART – Psalm 37:4

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.

Psalm 37:4 (NLT)

A – ABILITY – 1 Corinthians 12:6

There are different abilities to perform service.

1 Corinthians 12:6 (GNT)

P – PERSONALITY

E – EXPERIENCES