

The Power of Life in the Family of God

Unstoppable Week 11

Acts Chapters 11

What Might Happen?

What kind of power do we experience
when we prioritize life with Jesus in the
family of God?

Acts 11:19-30

“19 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. 20 However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. 21 The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.”

- v. 19-21

Acts 11:19-30

Antioch — The 3rd largest city in the Roman Empire behind Rome and Alexandria

“Jerusalem was all about religion; Rome was all about power; Alexandria was all about intellect, and Athens was all about philosophy. ... Antioch was all about business and immorality.” - David Guzik

Acts 11:19-30

22 When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When 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. 24 Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to look for Saul. 26 When 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.)

- v.22-26

Acts 11:19-30

27 During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One 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.) 29 So the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea, everyone giving as much as they could. 30 This they did, entrusting their gifts to Barnabas and Saul to take to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.”

- v. 27-30

The church's response was spontaneously to give toward the relief of the believers living in Judea, and to send the gift with Barnabas and Saul

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What kind of power do we experience
when we prioritize life with Jesus in the
family of God?

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1. The Power to Witness

“...some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus. 21 The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.”

- Acts 11:20-21

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- A. We see people as people, and never as projects
- B. We learn to proclaim Gospel truth
- C. We see our hardships as doors to share the hope we have in Jesus

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2. The Power to Remain Faithful

“When he [Barnabas] 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” - Acts 11:23

A. An “isolated Christian” is an oxymoron. We are made for relationship!

B. We stand strong and stand true by being together — Ephesians 4:11-16

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3. The Power to Be a Blessing

“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

Encourage each other, offer hospitality to one another, love one another!

- See 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 1 Peter 4:9; John 13:34