



To Antioch...and Beyond!

Matt Sturdevant
Lead Pastor
June 7, 2026

BIG IDEA: God is actively *building, protecting,* and *advancing* His Church, and NOTHING can stop what He is determined to do!

Acts 11:19-12:25 serves as a BRIDGE, setting the stage for the second half of Acts and Paul's missionary journeys.

Lessons from Acts 11:19-12:25

- The Gospel advances when ORDINARY believers FAITHFULLY share Jesus Acts 11:19-26
 - “...And in Antioch the *disciples* were first called *Christians*.” (v. 26)
 - “*Christian*” identifies WHO YOU BELONG TO Acts 11:26, 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16
 - “*Disciple*” describes HOW YOU LIVE John 8:31, 13:35, 15:8; Matthew 28:19-20
- Healthy churches are built through *encouragement, generosity,* and *discipleship* Acts 11:27-30
 - The Church in Antioch: A case study in SPIRITUAL maturity
 - A four-step progression:
 - STEP 1: The Gospel came TO them (v.v. 20-21)
 - EVANGELISM:** *Introducing people to Jesus and inviting them to trust Him as Savior and Lord*
 - STEP 2: The Gospel grows IN them (v.v. 25-26)
 - DISCIPLESHIP:** *The lifelong process of becoming more like Jesus in our beliefs, character, and actions*
 - STEP 3: The Gospel flows THROUGH them (v. 29)
 - GENEROSITY:** *Using the resources God has entrusted for the good of others and the advancement of His mission*
 - STEP 4: The Gospel unites them FOR something bigger (v.v. 29-30)
 - PARTNERSHIP:** *Disciples joining their resources, gifts, and efforts together for the mission of God*
- No opposition can STOP what God has determined to accomplish Acts 12:1-25
 - Acts 12:** A case study of the _____ of God in action *Psalm 8, 103:19; Colossians 1:17; Daniel 4:35; Genesis 50:20*
 - James is killed, and Peter imprisoned (v.v. 1-5)
 - Peter is rescued (v.v. 6-19)
 - King Herod dies (v.v. 20-23)
 - “*But the word of God increased and multiplied.*” (v. 24)
 - Despite all the opposition, the Gospel is now ready for major EXPANSION Acts 1:8



Online Notes

Follow us for encouragement during the week ---->



@hopechurchfw



HopeCFW

KEEP READING 

WHY does it matter/**WHAT** does it mean for me?

1. God often accomplishes extraordinary things through ORDINARY FAITHFULNESS
 - **HARD TRUTH:** You DO NOT have to be *extraordinary* for God to use you, but you do have to be *available* and *faithful*
 - **Ask:**
 - *Who has God placed in my life right now that may be MORE OPEN to the Gospel than I realize?*
 - *Do I view myself as someone God can use for His mission, or have I convinced myself that ministry is only for “more gifted” Christians?*
2. A mature disciple becomes a CONTRIBUTOR, not merely a consumer
 - **HARD TRUTH:** Spiritual maturity is NOT measured by how much Scripture you know, but by how much transformation is actually occurring
 - **Ask:**
 - *If everyone in the church approached serving, giving, and discipleship the way I do, WHAT KIND of church would we become?*
 - *Which area of the 3C pathway needs the most growth in my life right now: Committed, Connected, or Contributing?*
3. My CONFIDENCE needs to rest in God’s sovereignty, not in favorable circumstances
 - **HARD TRUTH:** My circumstances may be unpredictable, but God’s purposes are unstoppable
 - **Ask:**
 - *When faced with uncertainty or opposition, is my first response worry, self-reliance or prayer?*
 - *How would my perspective change this week if I truly believed that God’s purposes cannot be stopped, even when I cannot see what He is doing?*

Memory Verse:

But the word of God increased and multiplied.

Acts 12:24 ESV

Recommended Resources:

[3C Disciple Series](#)

[Acts Series](#)



Online Notes

My next step today is to...

- Memorize Acts 12:24
- Repent and accept Jesus as my Savior and submit to His Lordship for the first time!
- Go public as a follower of Jesus and get baptized
- Sign up for a Summer Group
- Read Acts chapter 11:19-12:25 this week
- Check out the Sunday Extra Podcast to go deeper with the discussion on Acts
- _____