

**Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Genuine Christian"
Acts 11:19-30
Study -22**

Acts 11:26 Prior to this, Followers of God had been called several different names.

The First Name Used to describe God's Followers Was "Disciples" (Need of Knowledge).

Afterward, they were called "Saints" (Not Of This World). Saint literally means *"the holy ones, or the set apart ones."*

They were called "Believers" (Product of Faith). This is not limited to the intellectual facts, but to a joyous reception of the Gospel.

They were called "Witnesses" (Personal Experience), Jesus said, **Acts 1:8**
They were called "Brethren" (Need of Unity), Members of the family of God.

Also Called - "The Way" (Exclusive), "Steward" - (Managers of God's Resources), "God's Elect" - (Origin of Salvation is Divine), "Holy Nation" - (New Classification of People)

First Time in Antioch, the followers of Jesus are called "Christians." The word means *"Christ's ones" or "Christ's people" or "belonging to Christ."*

Thought of our Passage: "Early Church Evangelized The Lost, Discipled The Converted, And Through God's Love Provided For The Believer's Needs."

- 1. Verses 19-21 Evangelism**
- 2. Verses 22-26 Discipleship**
- 3. Verses 27-30 Benevolence**

1. Verses 19-21 Evangelism:

Acts 11:19 So then - Context - The Church has just stepped out of God's way by accepting the Gentiles into the family of God without going through Judaism. **(1 ½ Chapters) Acts 10-11:18**

Acts 11:18

those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen - The expansion of the Church was the result of the persecution, **Acts 8:4**

made their way to Phoenicia on the Mediterranean coast. North/West of Galilee, present-day **Lebanon**. This was near the base of Mount Carmel.

and Cyprus, which was an island 60 miles west of the coast of Syria. It was 40 miles South of Turkey, which was accessed by Tyre and Sidon.

Antioch - (Capital city of Syria) About 16 miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea. Sitting on the Orontes River. About 300 miles North of Jerusalem.

Antioch - A Center of Commerce – All the riches of the East passed through Antioch on the way to Rome. Situated on the River Orontes.

Antioch's Beauty - Antioch was called "*The Queen of the East,*" "*Antioch The Beautiful,*" or "*Antioch The Great.*"

The Main Street - was more than four miles long, paved with marble, and lined on both sides by marble colonnades. It was the only city whose streets were lit at night.

Antioch's Corruption - The Cities of Corinth and Antioch were known as Cities of Debauchery: Chariot Races, Gambling, Drinking, Immorality. The Temple and Center of Worship of Daphne, Apollo, and Artemis were five miles out of town. "*The Grove of Apollo*" was a park where immorality was openly practiced.

speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. How reluctant Israel was to share with Gentiles.

Acts 11:20 preaching the Lord Jesus. Notice what they were preaching! It was Jesus.

Acts 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, many were saved.

Mark Of A Genuine Christian Is Believing & Repenting: Believed (Mind) To believe that Jesus is the Son of God

turned to the Lord. (Heart & Action) Repentance - The turning from our sin

2. Verses 22-26 Discipleship:

Acts 11:22 The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, - The Jerusalem Church was the Mother Church. It was here that the Church was born.

and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. Barnabas – name means "*Son of encouragement*", encouraging. **Acts 4:36-37**

Barnabas Put His Neck Out for Saul - **Acts 9:27**

Acts 11:24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.

Acts 11:23 Barnabas Witnessed The Grace of God - Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, - he witnessed what God was doing.

Barnabas Rejoiced Over God's Work - he rejoiced,

Barnabas Encouraged Them All - encourage them all

Literally "He kept on encouraging them, to repeatedly and continuously."

with resolute heart – Whole heartiness

remain true to the Lord; *"to stay glued to, adhere, cleave, join, continue in the Lord."*

Joshua's Admonition to Israel: Joshua 22:5 "cleave to the Lord"

Acts 11:24 for he was a good man, *(Void of censuring, benevolent spirit)*

and full of the Holy Spirit - which explains the effectiveness of his ministry.

and of faith. Barnabas relied upon the Lord. This is the simple trusting of God.

faith - *"Loyalty to the Lord" Devotion to God's purposes, God's plan. We are trusting God for his promises.*

A Man of Faith Brought Others To The Faith: (Evangelism) **And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.**

the Lord – Verse 20, 21, 24. It is a personal relationship with God

Evangelism Produces the Need For Discipleship: Acts 11:25 And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; 100 Miles North, Barnabas went to seek and search out Saul. 7-10 years. **Acts 9:30**

to look – *Is the idea of "a parent energetically looking high and low for a lost child."*

The Need For More Workers - *Barnabas knew that God had commissioned Saul to minister to the Gentiles* **Acts 9:15; Acts 26:17**

Barnabas befriended Saul in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-27)

Acts 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. About 7-10 years have elapsed.

Mark Of A Genuine Christian Is Discipleship: And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; 1 Peter 2:2

taught considerable numbers; Acts 11:24

Christian – the term is used **3 times: Acts 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16. *Christian. The Latin suffix "ian" means "belonging to the party of", denoting an adherent. The followers of Jesus, "those following the Messiah."***

3. Verses 27-30 Benevolence:

Acts 11:27 some prophets – First mention in **Acts**.

The foundation for the church was laid by the Apostles and Prophets. Ephesians 2:20

Acts 11:28 One of them named Agabus - we will see him again in **Acts 21:10-11**- reveals God's will for Paul's imprisonment.

began to indicate by the Spirit - inspired by the Spirit. **Isaiah 8:20; Jeremiah 23:16**

certainly be a great famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius. This was **41-54 AD**.

Acts 11:29 any of the disciples had means, *"as each one prospered" had the means!*

relief of the brethren living in Judea. Gentiles are ministering to their Jewish brothers.

At one time, nobody in the church had any need (Acts 4:34), Acts 11:30 sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul - those who were trustworthy.

to the elders. This is the first time used in **Acts** for Church leaders. **1 Timothy 3; Titus 1:5-9**

Application:

- 1.** Am I A Christian As Described In Scripture? I Believe I Have Repented, I Am Following, I Am Growing Through Instruction.
- 2.** Like Barnabas, Do I Rejoice Over What God Is Doing Through Others?
- 3.** Do I Encourage Others To Use Their God-Given Gifts To Serve God?
- 4.** Do I See The Lord Working Through Me?