

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. ²⁰ But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. (11:19-21)

Observation: God used the Persecution of Stephen to reach more people with His Salvation in Christ, both Jews and Gentiles (Hellenists = Greek Speaking Gentiles in this context).

Flashback:

Acts 8:1 - Now Saul was consenting to his death (i.e. To Stephen's Death / Stoning) - At that time a GREAT PERSECUTION arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were ALL SCATTERED throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, EXCEPT the apostles.

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Except for those that were with the Apostles (native born Jews who were born and grew up in Israel with the apostles – who were followers of Jesus Christ, the Messiah) – everyone else of the Church in Jerusalem were scattered. All those folks that came to Jerusalem in Acts 2, for the celebration of Shavuot (Pentecost) – Jews from all those nations listed there in Acts 2:8-11

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The Born-Again Jews who were Scattered up the Coast of Israel into Phoenicia (Lebanon), Cyprus (Island), and up to Antioch

Instead of letting the FEAR of that Persecution Silence them, they shared the Gospel with the lost around them. No one had a gun to their head to force them to Share, either. They were simply being Obedient to the Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8. They understood God's Goal → Gospel to the Gentiles.

Some shared only with Jews, yet others shared with Gentiles.

Affinity → Jews with Jews → We all know this. We like to be around those who are like us, travel in our same circles, talk like us, look like us, have similar interests, like that same kinds of music, have similar heritage, history, etc. That's OK – SHARE the GOSPEL with THEM as well. Don't be shy, be Bold and Loving

Those Born-Again Jews who reached out to the Gentiles in Antioch – that was something that took courage and boldness, along with prayerful skill. None of what they did was without prayer, I am sure of that. They had compassion on the lost around them, including Gentiles. And because of that compassion, they proclaimed the Gospel to them. The greatest love, the greatest compassion a Christian can show to a lost person is sharing the Gospel with them.

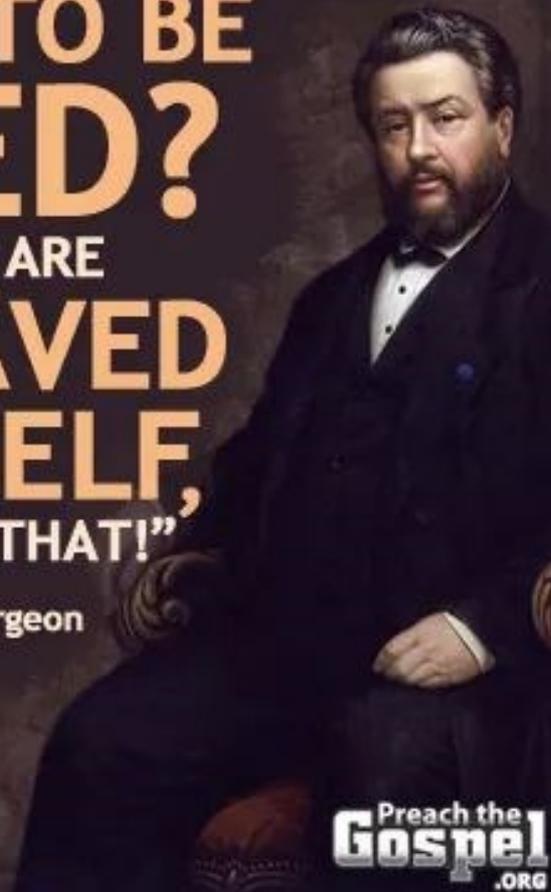
Antioch → ²⁰ But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. (Acts 11:20-21)

Because God's Hand was with those Born-Again Jews – the Gentiles responded to the Gospel. These Jews from Cyprus and Cyrene were led by Jesus to preach the Gospel all along the way up the coast of Lebanon and Syria – ending up in Antioch. They had compassion on the lost around them, including Gentiles. And because of that compassion, they proclaimed the Gospel to them. The greatest love, the greatest compassion a Christian can show to a lost person is sharing the Gospel with them.

**“HAVE YOU NO WISH FOR
OTHERS TO BE
SAVED?”**

**THEN YOU ARE
NOT SAVED
YOURSELF,
BE SURE OF THAT!”**

- Charles H. Spurgeon



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THE GOSPEL COMMAND IS,
"GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD
AND PREACH THE GOSPEL
TO EVERY CREATURE,"

BUT IT IS SO LITTLE OBEYED THAT ONE WOULD
IMAGINE THAT IT RAN THUS, "GO INTO
YOUR OWN PLACE OF WORSHIP
AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE

FEW CREATURES WHO
WILL COME INSIDE."

— CHARLES H. SPURGEON

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“IF SINNERS BE DAMNED,
AT LEAST LET THEM
LEAP TO HELL
OVER OUR DEAD BODIES.
AND IF THEY PERISH, LET
THEM PERISH WITH OUR
ARMS WRAPPED
AROUND THEIR KNEES.
IF HELL MUST BE FILLED,
LET IT BE FILLED IN THE
TEETH OF OUR EXERTIONS,
AND LET NO ONE GO
UNWARNED
OR UNPRAYED FOR.”

- Charles H. Spurgeon

A portrait of Charles H. Spurgeon, a prominent English Baptist preacher, shown from the chest up. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark bow tie. He has a full beard and is looking slightly to the right of the viewer.

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“ Someone asked

Will the heathen who have never
heard the Gospel be saved?

It is more a question
with me whether we...

WHO HAVE THE GOSPEL
AND FAIL TO GIVE IT TO
THOSE WHO HAVE NOT
— CAN BE SAVED.



—C.H. SPURGEON

News Reaches the church in Jerusalem (notice that the church in Jerusalem was not scattered)

22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and ENCOURAGED them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. (Acts 11:22-24)

Sending Barnabas made perfect, cultural sense. But, understand, **the church in Jerusalem was being led by the Holy Spirit in this decision.** Yes, Barnabas was from Cyprus so ... he “spoke” their culture and language.

Sending Barnabas made perfect, cultural sense. But, understand, the church in Jerusalem was being led by the Holy Spirit in this decision. We look back at it and then we can see that sending Barnabas made perfect sense, since the folks who originally preached the Gospel to those Gentiles in Antioch were from Cyprus and Cyrene, and Barnabas was from Cyprus. So, this made perfect sense. Yet, Barnabas was no scholar, nor was he a pastor, preacher, teacher – he was an ENCOURAGER. His name was Joses (like Moses, but with a J) but his nickname was Son of Encouragement or Son of Consolation. Encouragement is a better translation. He would be a great, encouraging, inspirational speaker, if he was a speaker (we find out later, he wasn't). He Encouraged the people to stay true to their surrendered commitment to Christ Jesus the Lord, etc. His character says it all: he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith (Acts 11:24).

LESSON:

Even if you are NOT gifted as an Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher, Apostle, etc. you can still use the gift(s) God gave you after you became Born Again in Christ, to be an Encouragement and Build up others in Christ.

Do you want your fellow Christians to be Encouraged in Christ?

Do you want your fellow Christians to be Built Up, to Be Edified in

Christ? → Then use your gifts accordingly (see 1 Peter 4:7-11)

⁷ But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. ⁸ And above all things have fervent love for one another,

for “love will cover a multitude of sins.” ⁹ Be hospitable to one another

without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each one has received a GIFT, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ¹¹ If anyone

speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be

glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Barnabas Sought Saul ...

25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. 26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were FIRST called CHRISTIANS in Antioch.

Barnabas recognized that he needed help with this brand new church of Gentiles that had no Bible background. They needed to be discipled and Barnabas knew the perfect person for this – Saul of Tarsus. Why? Saul was not only a Biblical Scholar, the best of his time, short of Gamaliel, but he was also from Tarsus, one of the few University cities within the Roman Empire. Saul was schooled in all the ancient works of the Greeks, etc. as well as within God's Word. He was the perfect person to bridge the Gentile to the Faith in the God of the Bible. Saul, who was also called Paul, knew both worlds and could help the Gentile understand the Bible.

Those Gentiles that came to faith in Christ in Antioch had no Biblical background. They just knew about as much as those who originally shared with them, along with what Barnabas shared. But it seems, that none of these Born Again Jews had the skills necessary to help that new Gentile church to grow deeper and stronger in the Lord without the help from someone else. So, Saul was chosen to help.

We find out that Barnabas, Saul, and those that originally shared (all Born Again Jews) stayed there for quite a while discipling that brand new church. We also find out that God sent other leaders in the Faith to help them out, as well ... we read in Acts 13:1 - Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

So, God brought together the folks needed to take care of, disciples, and grow (spiritually and numerically) the kind of leaders needed for this (also see Ephesians 4:11-16)

This is the IDEAL of what God wants regarding Church Planting. Understand, this is the IDEAL Model – the Antioch Model. God's Hand was with them.

Also, understand, that throughout history, Church Planting has NOT always fit this model, but folks continued to share the Gospel and plant churches as God led them, as well. Again, we should avoid Antioch Envy. It is an IDEAL MODEL.

1. Prayer, Courage, Boldness, Sharing the Gospel, Disciple those that get Saved.
2. Bring in Leaders (as needed), and then raise up Leaders from within (1 Peter 5:1-5; Ephesians 4:11-16)
3. When they can support themselves → send out missionaries , prayerfully, as God leads → to plant more churches

That is God's IDEAL – We should Pray for this to become a reality for us, as well.

**So, related to this passage (Acts 11:19-26) ...
regarding the Growth of the Church and
the Spread of the Gospel ...**

What is your part in this?

Are you a Saul?

Are you a Barnabas?

Are you one of those original “preachers of the Gospel to the Gentiles”?

Are you one of those “other leaders” (ref. Acts 13:1)?

Christian – the word only occurs 3 times, and only in the New Testament in the following passages: **Acts 11:26, 26:28, and 1 Peter 4:16.**

It was originally meant as a derogatory title – “little Christs” ... or “little cult followers of Christ” → It was a term of Mockery, of Scoffing

It has become to mean so many other things, today.

But, we want to use the **Biblical sense of the word** → we want to use it in the sense of what we see in **Acts 26:28 and 1 Peter 4:16** → a Born Again, Disciple, Follower of Jesus Christ – in which Jesus Christ is Lord, King, God and Savior to the one who is saved, the follower of Christ. **Are you a fully surrendered disciples of Jesus Christ? Would others around you accuse you of such a thing? Would you, as those first Antioch Christians, be called such a derogatory title? If being a Christian was illegal, would you be found guilty of such a crime?**

That's what it takes to be a church, outlaws of the world, accused of following Christ and spreading their rebellion against the world system ... spawning a revolution – turning the world upside down for Christ.