

ONE message. people. mission.



Building the Church

Acts 11:19-12:25

Overview

- **Jesus: “I will build my church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it”**
 - 11:19 is picking up where 8:1 left off (Martyrdom of Stephen)
 - Christians spread Gospel as they flee
 - Makes it to more gentiles (11:20)
 - One guiding them was the one people were turning to (11:21)
 - People that wind up planting church at Antioch are unnamed
 - Simple Gospel saturated people who were generous w/ Gospel
 - Church at Jerusalem sends Barnabas to check
 - He rejoices at SEEING the grace of God in church at Antioch
 - First multi ethnic church we are made aware of
 - Barnabas goes and gets Saul as he has experience w/ Hellenists (9:29)
 - Spend time teaching the church of Antioch
 - Herod persecutes Christians and kills James
 - Herod finds Jews are pleased and he goes after & imprisons Peter
 - Peter is miraculously freed by the Lord
 - The church has been praying and is amazed at his release
 - Herod kills sentries and receives praise and worship from others: Killed
 - Even in the midst of persecution, Christ’s church advances
 - Antioch was planted because of persecution
 - Herod, though he is the persecutors, dies while trying to kill church
 - Yet the church lives and increases and multiplies
- **A Christian...**
 - Belongs to a church (12:1)
 - Committed to teaching & learning of God (11:26)
 - Generous (11:28-30)
 - Prays (12:5, 12-16)
 - Talks about Christ (Implicit in 11:26)
 - Denies self and looks to others
 - Should increase and multiply (12:24)
 - Most importantly and foundationally, believes the Gospel (11:21)

Overview

Discussion starter: If our culture were to name we Christians as they did at Antioch, what name might they give evangelical Christians in America?

1. How did the martyrdom of Stephen produce a good effect?
2. How does one “see” the grace of God? What are some places you see in others (name them...point out evidences of grace)? What are some places you see grace in our church?
3. Discuss how Christ’s church has faced obstacles yet continues to grow (look back into to previous passages of Acts).
4. How can we learn from this in the wake of current trials to our church?
5. What sort of confidence does this give you in facing trials or in your own evangelistic work?
6. Why would the angel of the Lord strike Herod dead in this passage?
7. Discuss each of the aspects of a Christian above, note evidences of grace, and identify struggles and commit to pray that they would be made manifest both individually and corporately.

Accountability Question: Of those ‘fruits’ of the Christian life, which one are you most encouraged and/or convicted by?