

ACTS 11:19-30

Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews.²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch.²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

²⁷ During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.²⁸ One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world. (This happened during the reign of Claudius.)²⁹ The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea.³⁰ This they did, sending their gift to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

| What is a favorite place you have visited and what is it known for? (Orlando is
| known for Disney, New Orleans is known for jazz, etc.)

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| To whom were the scattered believers initially sharing the gospel, and how did this
| change in Antioch? Why was this a big deal?

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| Why did the disciples in Jerusalem send Barnabas to Antioch?

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| What do we know about Barnabas from this passage and from Acts 4:36-37?
+ What role does Barnabas play in encouraging the new believers in Antioch?

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| Following the prediction of a famine by Agabus, how is the response of the church
| at Antioch like what we saw from the believers in Jerusalem in Acts 4?

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| Barnabas' name means "Son of Encouragement." Who has been an encourager in
| your life?

DAILY READINGS

1. ISAIAH 59:19-21
2. PSALM 2:8-12
3. PSALM 18:20-28
4. MATTHEW 9:35-38
5. LUKE 14:11-23
6. 1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12
7. ACTS 11:19-30