

Acts 11:19-30

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) *Acts 11:19* picks up where 8:4 left off, covering the effects of the persecution that arose in connection with Stephen.
- 2) *11:19* God used the persecution to scatter the Church throughout the known world.
- 3) *11:20* To present Jesus as the “Jewish Messiah” (Christ) held no meaning to a Gentile audience.
- 4) *11:21* The Old Testament phrase “hand of the Lord” meant two things:
 - God’s power expressed in judgment (Exodus 9:3)
 - God’s power expressed in blessing (Ezra 7:9-10; Nehemiah 2:8)
- 5) *11:22* Barnabas had an outstanding reputation for being devoted to Jesus and generous to believers.
- 6) *11:23* God’s grace may be invisible, but the effects are visible.
- 7) *11:23-24* When followers of Jesus are grounded in the Word of God, they will have a strong witness. There will be a balance between edification and evangelism.
- 8) *11:26* Barnabas and Saul faced a daunting task: to shepherd a large number of new believers in a hostile environment.
- 9) *11:26* Christianity is not a variant of Judaism.
- 10) *11:27* In the New Testament, prophecy is viewed as a word spoken under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit intended for direction or edification.
- 11) *11:28* The purpose of true prophecy is not to satisfy our curiosity about the future, but to stir our hearts to do God’s will.
- 12) *11:29* Jerusalem’s great difficulty became an opportunity for others to learn how to give.

13) You never know when a shift in your life circumstances isn’t as much about you as it is God using the circumstances to teach someone else who is watching you.

14) *11:29-30* Out of this first-century famine emerges our form for giving today, which is also the pattern Paul taught in 2 Corinthians 8–9.

TODAY’S SONGS

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