



I. INTRO/REVIEW

- A. Wouldn't it have been exciting to be alive at the birth of the church?
- Great and powerful things were happening
 - How did an uneducated, ill-equipped, underfunded group of people who faced all these things change the world?
- B. The church at Antioch

Acts 11:26b (NKJV) ... And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Christian – Christ-like, Christ-follower, Christ means the anointed one – Christian – little anointed one

II. THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH

- A. A little church history

Acts 11:19 (NKJV) ¹⁹ 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.

- The “church” born on the day of Pentecost – Acts 2 was about 30 AD
- The church in Jerusalem experienced rapid growth the first 2 years
- Then persecution came
- As persecution rose the early group of believers, the church, scattered leaving Jerusalem and preached the Gospel everywhere they went

Acts 11:20-21 (NKJV) 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.

- **The church at Antioch was a church for everybody not just the “right” people**

- B. They were willing to minister to others instead being ministered to

Acts 11:22-24 (NKJV) 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.

- **The church at Antioch was a church of influence**

- C. Barnabas saw what was going on and recognized they needed some help



Acts 11:25-26 (NKJV) 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.

- **The church at Antioch made room for discipleship**

D. They were a generous church

Acts 11:27-30 (NKJV) ²⁷ And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. ²⁹ Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. ³⁰ This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

- **The church at Antioch was a generous church**

III. WHY DID ANYONE PAY ATTENTION?

A. What was it about the church of Antioch?

- **The church at Antioch was a church for everybody not just the “right” people**
- **The church at Antioch was a church of influence**
- **The church at Antioch was a generous church**

B. To be like the church at Antioch we need to

- **Break personal barriers**
- **Be willing to move beyond the status quo**
- **Be willing to minister to others when it'd been easier to receive ministry**
- **We must make room for the circle of discipleship in our life**

C. How did the circles and rows change the world?

Acts 4:13 (NLT) The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus.

D. Consider

- Where have I gotten comfortable – status quo? What do I need to break out of?
- Am I seeking to minister or be ministered to?
- Am I making room for discipleship in my life?
- Identify one person to pay for and influence toward Christ