

LESSONS FROM ANTIOCH **(Acts 11:19-30)**

The Church

Matthew 16:15-18 Without question, the church of Jesus Christ is the greatest institution on earth. There is no other institution that has rivaled the church over the last two thousand years in changing lives for the good, helping the needy, instituting laws for people to live by and keeping the world somewhat under control from totally destroying itself.

Ephesians 5:25-27 God in eternity past had the church in mind as the bible shows how He planned and planted His church over which Christ would die and then rule over for ever in New Jerusalem.

Antioch Established

Acts 8:1 Throughout the bible in the Old and New Testaments God shows us that when things are not going the way God wants them to go, many times He will send some type of persecution to His people.

Acts 11:19-20 Because of the persecution in Jerusalem many of the believers were scattered but continued to witness about their faith as some of them traveled 300 miles to the city of Antioch.

Hebrews 10:24-25 Many believers today are not joined together with a local assembly of believers for one reason or another. This is right where Satan wants believers, alone and without fellowship.

Antioch Strengths

Acts 11:21-26 Antioch was the first church outside of Jerusalem that had grown and multiplied due to their enthusiasm in witnessing and winning many to the Lord and the Lord was obviously pleased.

Acts 11:22-24 The Antioch church was growing fast and the Apostles in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to help the church in their understanding of Christianity. They were very receptive to his teaching and their fervency grew with their learning and they continued to witness and win many others to Christ.

Acts 11:27-30 This young church in Antioch demonstrated their compassion and unselfishness in a way that is very uncommon considering the most spiritually mature of them was only a few years old.

II Corinthians 9:6-7 Later on in Paul's journeys he taught others that Christians should have an attitude of giving because it is a blessing from God. Jesus Himself said "it is more blessed to give..."

Antioch Was Spirit Sensitive

Acts 13:2-3 As the church grew in number and in spiritual maturity they learned to listen to God and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. They did not complain when the Lord called out Paul and Barnabas. The church fasted and prayed to seek God's will and gladly sent the first missionaries on their way.

II Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 5:16 The only way Antioch could be so spiritual and understand God's will and be joyful in losing their beloved shepherds is because they were living by faith and walking in the Spirit. This is what is missing in today's Christian churches all across America.

Acts 14:25; 15:40-41; 18:23 The church of Antioch was a great missionary church as we find that all three of Paul's missionary journeys started and ended in this first missionary church.

Antioch Trouble

Acts 15:1-2 As with every bible believing church trouble came to Antioch by way of false doctrine. They handled it correctly by seeking God's truth in the most Godly way without splitting the church.