



Acts: Church in Antioch

April 12

INTRODUCTION: Acts: *Jesus' work, through the Apostles and disciples, by the Holy Spirit, to fulfil Acts 1:8.* A lot has happened. With the Gospel going to the Gentiles (Cornelius, ch. 10) we now see more effects of the persecution in 8:1 (ch. 11) followed by yet further opposition to the expansion of the Church (ch. 12). This section (chs. 10–12) is an interlude between “Jerusalem, Judea, & Samaria” & “the ends of the earth.”

KEY POINT: witness, expansion, Gentile missions, Christians

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Famous Last/First Words)

- How does Isa 53:7 help understand Jesus' last words?
- Why were His last words significant?
- What surprise attends His first words?
- What hope do His first and last words offer/assure us of?

P.M. BIBLE STUDY RECAP (Acts 1:3)

- What four things does Acts 1:3 tell us marked Jesus' resurrected ministry?
- What surprised you, encouraged you, challenged you, etc?

READ: Acts 11:19–30

QUESTIONS:

1. “It isn't that the evangelization of the Jews ceased but that the evangelization of the Gentile began.” **Discuss c.f. Ro 1:16**
From here the main theme in Acts is the latter.

Gentile missions by anonymous evangelists (vv.

2. *Now we see the effect of 8:1, or the Christian dispersion. Culturally, this was limited to Jews only (11:19; 15:7). After the conversion of Cornelius this expanded to Gentiles.*
3. *Antioch had a Jewish population but was a cosmopolitan city. Third in size in the Empire, it was an up-river harbour city with many notable buildings. It had a population of 500K with many non-Greeks, including Persians, Indians and Chinese.*

4. How was Antioch a providential choice geographically? *If Jerusalem was the capital of Jewish Christians, Antioch became the early capital of Gentile-Christians.*
5. **How has the Lord providentially placed us in Markdale?**
6. How did the Lord richly bless this innovation?
7. What people group might we not be reaching locally?

Gentile mission is recognised by Barnabas (vv. 22–24)

8. *It is not an apostle but Barnabas who is sent. Why?*
9. How did he encourage the grace of God?
10. **What relationship did his character have to his ministry?**
11. What was the result?

Gentile mission is reinforced by Saul (vv. 25–26a)

12. *With the church growing and in need of greater teaching, Barnabas (the encourager) sent for Saul (the teacher). Saul had spent some 7+ years in Tarsus and Cilicia (training for further ministry). Barnabas gives way to Saul in significance.*
13. **How are all Christians equipped to contribute different skills to our witness and mission?**
14. **Why did the young church need discipleship?**

Gentile mission produces a new name (v. 26b)

15. *Believers have so far been called brethren, disciples, saints, saved, Way; and now Christians.*
16. *Evidently followers of Jesus were being seen as different than adherents to Judaism, the NC was making a difference!*
17. *The “ian” of Christian can mean someone who follows someone (e.g. Herodians) or who are of/like them, or who represent them.*
18. **Why did this label “stick”?**

Gentile mission is confirmed by good works (vv. 27–30)

19. *Prophets spoke the God's word before the Canon (Eph 2:20).*
20. *Josephus spoke about a famine during Claudius that afflicted Judea. How is this aid a powerful confirmation that the Gentiles had joined the NC community? (c.f. Acts 2:45)*
21. **How is “to each according to his ability” a good principle?**

NEXT: April 12- Peter is Rescued, Acts 12:6–19