

Read Acts 11:19-24

**19** Meanwhile, the believers who had been scattered during the persecution after Stephen's death traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch of Syria. They preached the word of God, but only to Jews.

**20** However, some of the believers who went to Antioch from Cyprus and Cyrene began preaching to the Gentiles about the Lord Jesus.

**21** The power of the Lord was with them, and a large number of these Gentiles believed and turned to the Lord.

**22** When the church at Jerusalem heard what had happened, they sent Barnabas to Antioch.

**23** When he arrived and saw this evidence of God's blessing, he was filled with joy, and he encouraged the believers to stay true to the Lord.

**24** Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord.

**What happened to the believers after Stephen's death (v. 19)?** They were persecuted and fled to far-away lands.

**What did they do in these far-away lands?** They preached about Jesus but only to the Jews.

**Why did they only preach to Jews?** They didn't realize/they hadn't heard the news that the Gentiles were now included in God's plan.

**What did some other believers do (v. 20)?** They went to Antioch and preached to the Gentiles about Jesus.

**What happened next (v. 21)?** The power of the Lord was with them and lots of Gentiles believed in Jesus and were saved.

**What did the church at Jerusalem do (v. 22)?** When they heard what had happened at Antioch, they sent Barnabas to see exactly what was going on.

**When Barnabas got to Antioch, what did he see (v. 23)?** He saw the evidence of the grace of God. God was blessing the new believers there. They were probably excited and filled with joy. And sharing with those in need. **Can people see evidence of the grace of God at our church?**

**How did Barnabas react?** He was very glad and he encouraged the new believers to remain faithful to the Lord and walk closely with Him. He confirmed that the Gentile experience was valid.

**What kind of a person was Barnabas (v. 24)?** He was a strong Christian. He was a positive, encouraging person (4:36).

**What happened to the church in Antioch?** It was growing like crazy. Many people were believing in Jesus.