



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

## Acts 11

### Who are Christians?

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

- **1-3: Peter's interaction with Gentiles** – What was the immediate reaction of apostles and brethren? What is surprising about their reaction?
- **4-17: Peter's testimony of the visit** – Repeat from Ch.10 ... why repeat? are there any new details? On hindsight, why was it wise that Peter did not go alone to Cornelius home (10:23)? As a general principle, why is it better to not go alone for ministry? (example, Mark 6:7)
- **17-18: Changed Reaction** – What does the changed reaction say about the listeners?
- **19-26: Antioch church, a believers church**– Where is Antioch? What lead to the arrival of gospel in Antioch? The message: what was the message, who preached it, who was it preached to, what was the result?; Why was Barnabas sent? What was his observation and exhortation? What role did Barnabas play in Paul's life (Acts 9, 11)? How long (and what) did Paul & Barnabas minister? Who were called Christians?
- **27-30: Antioch, a Giving Church** – What prompted them to give? How much did they give? Why/How should we give? What can we give? *How can Bethany be a giving church?*
- **Conclusion:** Blessing of Persecution .... Birth of Christians and Church in Antioch! 🙏

# 1-3: Peter's interaction with Gentiles

What was the immediate reaction of apostles and brethren?  
What is surprising about their reaction?

# Peter's interaction with Gentiles

- What was the immediate reaction of apostles and brethren?
  - Criticized, Misunderstood  
(Peter responds with grace, rather than arguing; follows up with details of what happened)

**Proverbs 15:1** A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

- What is surprising about their reaction?
  - Focused on sharing meal with gentile, rather than souls that were saved
  - Limited understanding of the gospel (Gospel is for all, not just for Jews)

# 4-17:

## Peter's testimony of visit

Repeat from Ch.10 ... why repeat? are there any new details?

On hindsight, why was it wise that Peter did not go alone to Cornelius home (10:23)?

As a general principle, why is it better to not go alone for ministry?  
(example, Mark 6:7)

# Peter's testimony of visit

- why repeat?

Importance of the event in church history,  
Strengthen Peter's testimony,  
First hand report is more convincing

- are there any new details?

Six brethren (12)

Angel in Cornelius home (13)

Cornelius household not saved (14)

Holy Spirit fell at the beginning (15)

Remembrance of God's word about baptism (16)

# Peter's testimony of visit

- On hindsight, why was it wise that Peter did not go alone to Cornelius home (10:23)?

Adds more credibility to his report

Matthew 18:16 ... by the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word may be established

- As a general principle, why is it better to not go alone for ministry? (example, Mark 6:7)

Encourage one another,  
Hold each other accountable,  
Practical (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

# 17-18: Changed Reaction

What does the changed reaction say about the listeners?

# Changed Reaction

- What does the changed reaction say about the listeners?

They are open to changing opinion based on information presented  
Reasonable people are willing to change mind

- Contention (verse 2) changes to Peace and glory to God (verse 18)
  - Outcome was positive as Peter was willing to be patient and explain, instead of arguing back.

Verse 2: ... they that were of circumcision, **contended** with him

Verse 18: When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God ...



# 19-26:

## Antioch church, a believers church

Where is Antioch? What lead to the arrival of gospel in Antioch? The message: what was the message, who preached it, who was it preached to, what was the result?; Why was Barnabas sent? What was his observation and exhortation? What role did Barnabas play in Paul's life (Acts 9, 11)? How long (and what) did Paul & Barnabas minister? Who were called Christians?

# Where is Antioch?



# Antioch church, a believers church

- What lead to the arrival of gospel in Antioch?
  - Persecution (Acts 8:1,3) that lead to scattering of believers
- **The message:** what was the message? (preached Lord Jesus, 20),  
who preached it? (ordinary believers, not apostles),  
who was it preached to? (Jews,19; Grecian Jews,20),  
what was the result? (God was with them, and many turned to the Lord, 21),  
what do we learn? (Lord can work through ordinary believers)

# Antioch church, a believers church

- Why was Barnabas sent? What was his observation and exhortation?
  - Barnabas, gift of encouraging others (Son of consolation, Acts 4:36)
  - Saw the grace of God in Antioch ... exhorted them to cleave to the Lord (v.23)
- What role did Barnabas play in Paul's life (Acts 9, 11)?
  - Connected him to disciples who were afraid and hesitant (9:27)
  - Connected him to the growing ministry in Antioch
    - Barnabas was willing to share the limelight/position/ministry with others

# Antioch church, a believers church

- How long (and what) did Paul & Barnabas minister?

## One year of teaching

- Teaching – critical for growth of new believers (part of the great commission)

**Matthew 28:19,20** Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **Teaching them** to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

# Antioch church, a believers church

- Who are called Christians?

- Christianity is not a religion, but a relationship with a living God through Christ.
- Going to church/birth in Christian family/good works ... do not make us Christians!
- “Disciples” were called Christians

- Who is a disciple?

- Follower (of Christ)
- Following Christ is not easy ...It means denying self, and taking up the cross

**Matthew 16:24** If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross  
And follow me.

**Matthew 10:38** he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me

# 27-30: Antioch, a Giving Church

What prompted them to give?

How much did they give?

Who did they give to?

Why/How should we give?

*How can Bethany be a giving church?*

# Antioch, a giving Church

- What prompted them to give?

Holy Spirit – gives the spirit of compassion and discernment of the need

- How much did they give?

“Everyman” according to their ability (v.29)

- Who did they give to?

Sent to elders, through Barnabas and Paul

- Why should we give?

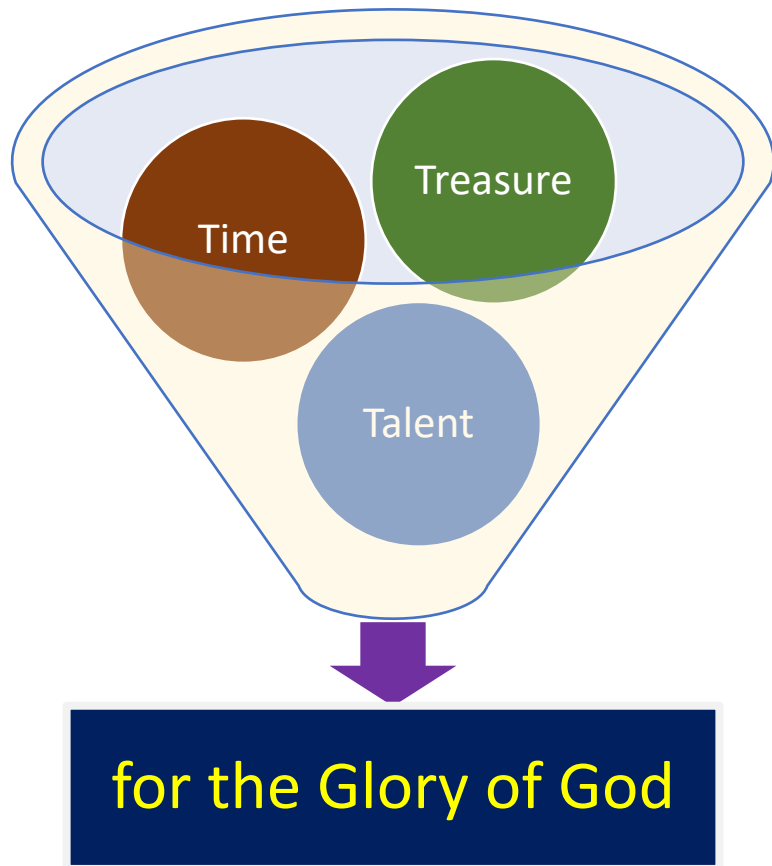
- We are members of the same body (Ephesians 3:6, Galatians 6:10, I Timothy 5:8)



# What does Bible say about giving? (from Acts 5)

- More blessed to Give (Acts 20:35)
- Give Cheerfully (II Corinthians 9:7)
- Give Secretly (Mathew 6:3, 4)
- Give Sacrificially (II Samuel 24:24)
- **Promise:** If we give prayerfully and with the right spirit, we will not lack (Luke 6:38, Matthew 6:4, Malachi 3:10, Psalms 37:25, Mathew 6:33)

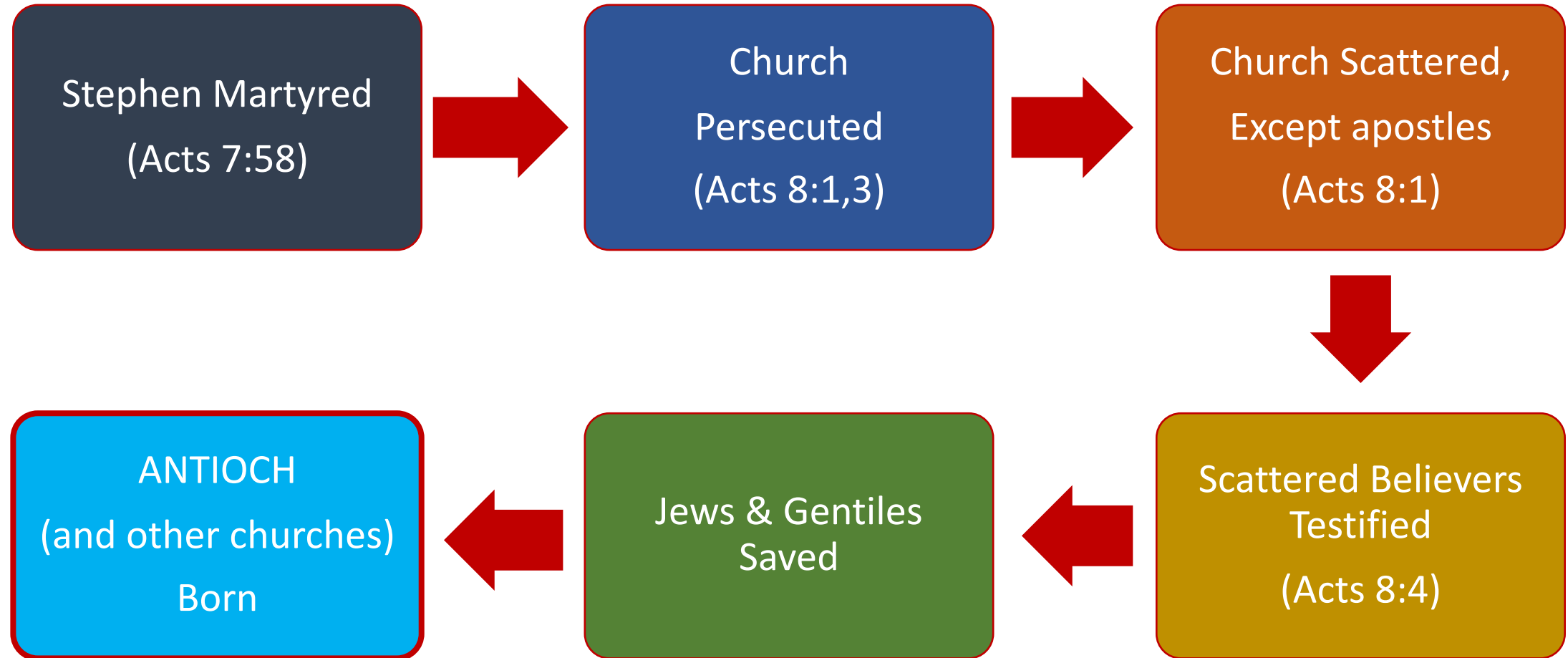
# What can we give?



# Conclusion

Blessing of Persecution ....  
Birth of Christians in Antioch!

# Blessing of Persecution ... Living Churches Born!





# ACTS REVIEW

## Do we remember?

# Acts Review:

## Do we remember?

1

- Author of Acts, Kingdom of God, Lord's Ascension
- Waiting for Holy Spirit, The Mission, Replacement for Judas

2

- Arrival of Holy Spirit, Difference in spirit between OT and NT
- Speaking in Tongues (Source, Purpose, Appropriate use) Peter's Sermon (Message, Last days) when is Holy Spirit given, Birth of Church and Characteristics of church

3

- First Healing (how? Parallel to sinner's experience)
- Peter's Sermon model (Question, Introduces Jesus, Confronts Mistakes, offers path to Repentance & Restoration, refers to Prophecies, Result)

Do we Remember?

4

- First Persecution-reason and verdict, Sanhedrin, Peter & John's response, Church Response, God's response, Caring Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> pouring of the Holy Spirit

5

- Church Discipline: Purpose, Example, Outcome
- Second Persecution: Reason, Peter's message to council, Response to beatings, Impact on Ministry

6

- Addressing Problems in church using godly decision making process
- Delegating to effectively exercise priority in use of gifts and talents

Do we Remember?

7

Stephen: Great man of God, Falsely accused, Confronts the council, Stoned to death, Received by Christ

8

- Growing Persecution, but positive outcomes.
- Successful ministry of Philip in Samaria, Questionable salvation of Simon, significance of laying on of hands
- Philip's outreach to Eunuch leading to baptism. Baptism.
- How can we be effective evangelists?

9

- Paul's old mission
- Paul's encounter with Jesus, Meeting with Annanias, baptism
- Paul's first ministry in Damascus
- Evidence of Paul's true salvation and transformed life
- Physical healing of Aenas and Tabitha



Do we Remember?

10

Heavenly visions of Cornelius and Peter; Response of Cornelius and Peter to the vision; Impact of Peter's message @ Cornelis home; Gospel reaches gentiles

11

12



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