**Acts 11:27-30**

**Antioch and Jerusalem: The Unified Church**

 **Sermon Goal:**

*“My hope is that after examining the early relationship between the churches at Antioch and Jerusalem, we would commit to unity with our brethren throughout the world. By extension, I also hope that we will respond with a giving spirit to needs we become aware of within the Body of Christ.”*

**SLIDE 1 – Area Map**

**SLIDE 2**

**Recap/Review of Acts 11:19-26 “The Church at Antioch”**

*“So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone. 20 But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks as well, preaching the good news of the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord. 22 The news about them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch. 23 Then when he arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he rejoiced and began to encourage them all with resolute heart to remain true to the Lord; 24 for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and faith. And considerable numbers were added to the Lord. 25 And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul; 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers of people; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.”*

**Application from Last Week’s Passage**

**SLIDE 3**

**1. Preaching vs. Teaching: Are you a believer, or a disciple?**

Do you need to be preached to, or taught? Our Christianity should not be a matter of mere intellectual assent, but of true belief, which leads to repentance and following – a new identity. If you don’t view yourself as regenerated (Born Again) in Christ, you need to assess your so-called faith.

**Matthew 7:21**

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*.”

What is the will of God? That we repent and put our faith in Jesus – This means that we truly become identified with Christ. This is not a works-based statement, it is a faith-based reliance on Jesus.

**2. “Christian?” How do *YOU* identify?**

**Galatians 2:20 –**

“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.”

**3. Encourager/Preacher/Teacher: What is your role in the Body?**

**Ephesians 2:10 –**

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

**Now we’ll be talking about the next step in the Church’s development.**

**SLIDE 4**

**Acts 11:27-30**

*“Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.****28****One of them, named Agabus, stood up and indicated by the Spirit that there would definitely be a severe famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.****29****And to the extent that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brothers and sisters living in Judea.****30****And they did this, sending it with Barnabas and Saul to the elders.”*

**Verse by Verse Breakdown:**

**V. 27-28**

*“Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.****28****One of them, named Agabus, stood up and indicated by the Spirit that there would definitely be a severe famine all over the world. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.”*

Notes:

V. 29

*“And to the extent that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brothers and sisters living in Judea.”*

Notes:

V. 30 –

*“And they did this, sending it with Barnabas and Saul to the elders.”*

Notes:

**SLIDE 5**

**Unity between Churches in Antioch and Jerusalem**

\* Jerusalem sends Barnabas to Antioch

\* Barnabas stays to encourage the church/recruits Paul

\* Prophets from Jerusalem went to Antioch

\* Aid is collected and sent to Jerusalem

**SLIDE 6**

**Regarding Christian Giving at Antioch**

\* A need in the church was made known, and the church responded

\* The disciples gave, “each according to his own ability”

\* Saul and Barnabas are a living bridge between churches

**SLIDE 7**

**Points of Emphasis/Application**

**1. Realize what it means to be a Christian.**

**Romans 12:5**

 *“...so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”*

**2. Respond to needs within the Body.**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.****7****Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

3. Recognize what the Holy Spirit would have you do.

Galatians 6:8-10

*“Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.****9****Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.****10****Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*