

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 23, 2014

This Week's Focus: The gospel is declared and cross-cultural barriers are broken, allowing the gospel to reach pagans. The church is further strengthened.

This Week's Text: Acts 11:19-30

*For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. **1 Corinthians 9:19-23***

*"Christ is our attorney and his portfolio is his propitiation. He stands before his Father in heaven, and every time we sin, he doesn't make a new propitiation. He doesn't die again and again. Instead he opens his portfolio and lays the exhibits of Good Friday on the bench before the Judge. Photographs of the crown of thorns, the lashing, the mocking soldiers, the agonies of the cross, and the final cry of victory." **John Piper***

Related Texts: Acts 4:36–37, 11:22-26; Matthew 16:24, 28:19-20; Romans 12:2, 8:29; Luke 6:40; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Ephesians 5:1-2; John 15:26, 16:7-14, 17; 1 John 2:1-2

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What is Luke telling us by drawing the contrast between verses 19 and 20?
- The words "speaking" and "spoke" in verses 19-20 are words used of everyday conversion.
 - Who are the ones who are speaking about Christ?
 - What does that say to us about sharing our faith?
 - Have you come from the tradition where the Pastor is the only one doing the speaking?

- What do we know about Antioch?
- What was the characteristic feature of gospel declaring at Antioch?
 - What were the results of this ministry?
- Why do you think Barnabas was sent and not Peter?
- What do we know about Barnabas? Reference Acts 4:36-37 and 11:22-26.
 - What were the characteristics of his ministry?
 - What were the results?
- The very Greek word translated into “exhort” or “encourage” is “para-kaleo” which literally means “to call alongside”.
 - How can we call people to truth and come alongside them in the process?
 - What does that ministry look like?
 - Who can you encourage this week?
 - Have there been Barnabas-type figures in your life?
 - How did they impact your walk of faith?
- How did Barnabas respond to the evidence of God’s grace? How and why is that different from the first response of the Jewish Christians in Acts 11:2?
- What does it say about Barnabas that he went to find Saul to help in the ministry at Antioch?
- Why do you think that it was in Antioch that believers were first called Christians?
- Why would the gospel break through all barriers and divides? Think racial, national, ethnic, sociological, cultural, etc.
- In verses 27-30, the prophet Agabus predicted a worldwide famine.
 - How did this new church respond? What is the significance of their response?
- Consider the whole narrative and discuss the number of stages in its development.
 - In particular, what does this passage teach us about discipleship?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus is our advocate who not only speaks on our behalf but also stood in our place on the cross.
- God’s grace to us in the gospel broke down our walls and rescued us.

Prayer Focus:

- Look within and repent of any prejudices.
- Be open and willing to share Christ with whomever God calls you to.

Next Week’s Text: Acts 12