

We are meant to do it together

Acts 11:25-26

Welcome

- Hello as you heard in the announcements we are back in Acts 11 tonight
- Now as we jump back into this section our big question we are looking at is this, “Why do we gather”?
- I know I preach a lot about, if this is all we do we are failing, however, tonight I want to focus on why it is important we meet together
- Now tonight I promise we are going to do something radical, it may be awkward for some of us, but I promise Jesus will use it for some big things!
- Hopefully you are there, I will pray and we will get started, Pray

Acts 11:25-26

So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

Acts 11:25-26

- Alright so last week we looked at the importance of the church in Antioch
- In fact, we looked at how most churches today can trace their beginning straight back to the church at Antioch
- Also like I pointed out last week, if I ran out of time, we would get more into this, and here we are back into it
- First and foremost I want to point out here Barnabas is sent from the church at Jerusalem to help them out with everything going on

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- Barnabas is an important figure, described as full of faith, a good man (nothing more, not a genius apologist, not a futurist visionary)
- Barnabas' name literally means son of encouragement, he shows up at the church at Antioch, immediately sees what is happening, and starts encouraging others to preach, to be on mission, to seek and save what is lost
- This is one reason we gather, some of us in this room are natural encouragers
- We come together so some of us can take some time to encourage others, to show hey I know it is hard out there, but what we do matters
- Some of us, need to be encouraged, and some of us need to be encouraging others

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- Next notice how Barnabas gets here, encourages people but then he leaves to go find Saul back in Tarsus
- This is another reason we gather together, because none of us can do this by ourselves
- No one in this room is capable of doing all this by ourselves, we say it every week, but understand, we cannot do this without you
- Barnabas knew Saul would bring things to the mission that he himself couldn't accomplish

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- This is why later Saul would write this in 1 Corinthians 12:18-21, “18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”
- It takes every single one of us in this room, and more to accomplish the mission of seeking and saving what is lost
- This is why our vision is to create opportunities for all disciples to serve those around us, share the gospel of Jesus, and live lives on mission

Acts 11:25-26

- Because there are things that only you can do
- There are things Jesus created each and everyone of you to do, that you are perfectly designed to do
- We just have to do those things
- And when we do, when we all come together, encourage each other, when we all go out into the harvest look what happens
- It says here in Antioch, the disciples are first called Christians

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- Why is this important?
- Because it shows the impact the church in Antioch has on the people that surround them
- This church has such an impact, culture has to create a word to describe them
- We are called to this, to impact the city around us in such a way that they are effected by what we do (this is what happens when we love God and others)
- A question I ask our leadership when we meet is this, if we burned down, if we closed up shop would the community care, would they even know?

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- As the church we want to make such an impact that the community would miss us if we left
- This is what Jesus is talking about in Matthew 5:14-16, “14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
- We are called to be seen, to be heard, to show a different way just as Jesus did
- Talk about the culture war and how the church tries to ignore culture creating a christian bubble we exist in, how can we seek and save what is lost like that

Acts 11:25-26

- This is the purpose of salvation, this is why we are created to be new
- This is why we are given a new heart (to see people as Jesus does)
- We are meant to show Jesus' glory, to preach the gospel
- Just like we see here in Antioch
- Whether it is through Mission Academy teaching students
- Or Mission outdoors as we are fishing, hunting, or whatever else in nature
- Or mission media in a podcast, video or blog

Closing

- This is what we are created for, to go outside of these walls on mission to seek and save what is lost
- Now like I said radical things, so we are gonna close out the message now
- I know it is shorter, but I want to give us time to reflect on what we just heard, and talk with each other about ways to take the mission outside of these walls
- I want us to be purposeful in our time, don't just get up and leave, talk with one another about what missions we can complete, pray with one another about ways to complete missions, and encourage one another to be on mission