

3. READ Acts 4:36-37; 9:26-27; 11:24. List the spiritual character qualities that made Barnabas an excellent choice for the Jerusalem church to send to Antioch.

4. READ Luke 23:26; Mark 15:21; Acts 2:10; 13:1; Rom. 16:13. Make a list of the people likely connected with the early church from Cyrene in North Africa.

5. Why do you think that the church in Antioch experienced such numerical growth? Who, or what, was the key component(s)?

6. Spend some time praying for “the hand of God” to be upon our church (directing, correcting, protecting) on mission with Him.

Christ's Mission Has a Church!

Acts 11:19-30

January 12, 2020

Christology  Missiology  Ecclesiology

Christ- **ology** = the study of Christ

Missio- **ology** = the study of mission (**sent** ness)

Ecclesi- **ology** = the study of the **church**

We have to be clear about who Christ is and what He came to do. Then, we can know why the church is here and what we are to do.

Matthew 1:21 the name of Christ's mission: **Salvation!**

Mark 10:45 the cost: to **serve** and give His life

Luke 4:18-19 the method: preach good news to **poor** ,
(freedom to prisoners, sight to blind, liberty to oppressed)

Luke 19:10 the focus of Christ's mission: the **lost**

John 10:16 the scope of Christ's mission: always others!

When Jesus sent out his apostles (Matthew 28:18-20) he stated His authority, outlined their mission, and gave assurances.

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

Therefore, get going (or, as you go)

*Make **disciples** of all nations*

Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit

Teaching them to obey everything I've commanded you

And, surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age

NOTE: Christ's followers were part of His mission **before** the Holy Spirit came (Acts 2) and began the church in Jerusalem.

Our church does not *do missions* as a thing, a part of our church.
Our church exists as an extension of Christ's mission, part of Him.

Acts 11:19-30

“those scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen”
(see also Acts 8:1b, 4) distances from Jerusalem

- Phoenicia (100mi long, the coastal region) 30mi W
- Cyprus (an island in the Mediterranean) 300mi W
- Antioch (3rd largest city, to Alexandria and Rome) 300mi N
- Cyrene (a city in Libya, North Africa) 1,000mi W

It doesn't matter where you buy your **groceries** !

Every expression of Christ's mission in the New Testament has both an individual (**me**) and a corporate (**we**) aspect.

Four key identifiers of a church on mission with Christ

1. Gospel-izing (19-21)

- Different groups to different audiences but **speaking** the same message “good news about the Lord Jesus” (10:36)
- **Divine** enablement by “the hand of the Lord”
- **A great number** “believed and **turned** to the Lord”

2. Making **disciples** (22-24)

- The church in Jerusalem (group) sent Barnabas (individual)
- He came, saw the **grace** of God and **rejoiced**
- Encouraged “to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts”
- **A large number of people** (NIV); a great many people (ESV)

3. Teaching (25-26)

- Barnabas goes and finds Saul to help teach. For a whole year, they taught “**a great many people**” in Antioch.
- Curriculum was **Christ** in the OT (Luke 24:27, 44-45)
- “Christians” identified with Jesus the Messiah (**Christ**)

4. Extending **aid** (27-30) likely, the famine was ca. 44-48AD

- Gentiles stretched themselves to help to ethnically different believers (**brothers**) in Judea, more than once

Life Group Homework

1. In Nazareth, Christ introduces His mission (Luke 4:18-19) by reading the first part of Isaiah 61:1-3 Fill in the blanks below.

¹ *The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to proclaim _____ news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the _____ hearted,
to proclaim _____ for the captives
and release from darkness for the _____ ,*
² *to proclaim the year of the Lord's _____
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to _____ all who mourn,*
³ *and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of _____
instead of ashes,
the oil of _____
instead of mourning,
and a garment of _____
instead of a spirit of despair.*

2. Every expression of the mission of Christ has a “me” and a “we” component. Rate 1(low)-10(high) how you are doing at “living on mission with Christ?” How are “we” as church doing?

Is the “mission” aligned with Christ?	me	we
Finances		
Time (busyness)		
Family / Relationships		
Reading and Doing God's Word		
Helping the poor, broken, oppressed		
Sharing good news		
Other (_____)		