



When Division is Good

Adam Bowers | 4/16/2023 | Acts 11:19-30

1. Today's passage shows how God used the persecution and scattering of believers to spread the gospel. Where have you seen God use difficult circumstances to further His kingdom, whether in world events or your own life?

What perspective does this offer for our own hard situations?

2. Acts 11:21 says of the scattered believers that "the power of the Lord was with them." What does Acts 1:8 tell us about this power? What does it mean for our own lives?
3. What kinds of things might Barnabas have seen as "evidence of God's blessing" in Antioch (v. 23)? Are these things that characterize your life?
4. Barnabas reacted with joy at what was going on in Antioch (v. 23). Do we always react with joy when we see God doing good things elsewhere? If not, why not? What can we do to change that?
5. Barnabas brought Saul back to Antioch and served with him there for a year (v. 26). (Note that Saul was not yet "Paul"; he had not yet started his ministry to the Gentiles.) Why do you think Barnabas did this?
6. Jews and Gentiles, long separated by race, religion, and traditions, came together to serve one another (vv. 27-30). What are some of the divisions that we have to overcome to have unity among believers and serve one another? How can we do that, individually and as a church body?