



**Bible Study:** Thursday, April 07 2016.

**Topic:** Acts 11

**INTRODUCTION:** Acts chapter 11 paints the scenario which shows the disciples deliberately sending out a missionary to the Gentiles for the first time. As you peruse chapter 11, you cannot but admire and appreciate the command of Jesus to the Apostles in Acts 1: 4-5. (*And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*) Without the Holy Spirit, the church would have died a premature death after the ascension of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit proved to be a true replica of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. In Chapter 11 we see how the revelation to Peter in Chapter 10 transformed his outlook of the gospel. This then prepared him enough to pass the message to the other Apostles making them ready and willing to send a missionary. Up until this moment, the gospel was not preached to the Gentiles but there were a few encounters with the Gentiles at one time or the other. Examples are the encounter with Cornelius and the Ethiopian Eunuch. After this encounter, Barnabas was sent for the first time to the Gentiles.

DISCUSSION:

### **Peter Defends God's Grace**

1. Did the beginning of this verse show that there was subtle division in the church? Note the words 'Circumcised believers'.
2. The church was still very concerned about the law. Acts 10:9-14
3. Who were the people finding faults with Peter? Was it out of hatred?
4. Never see every challenge as motivated by hatred.
5. Examine the challenge of fault-finding and bigotry as a hindrance to the Gospel. How would this have hindered the expansion of the gospel?

6. Imagine how quick stories move. Give an example of a rumour or story that has moved faster than you thought.
7. What were the Apostles and brethren upset with Peters about? Matthew 10:36, Matthew 9:11, Matthew 15:2
8. How do we respond to fault-finders? **I Peter 3:15. Acts 6:1-3.** Compare with **Num 26:9-10.** Compare to self-justification approach that some will use.
9. This is an example of people been filled with the Holy Spirit before water baptism.
10. Why do you think Peter defended himself in a very detailed manner? **I Peter 3:15. (Amp), Psalm 133:1,**
11. Why did Peter have 6 men to accompany him on this trip? **Acts 6:3 Duet 19:5,**
12. Why did the Apostles react the way they did in **Verse 18A?**
13. In our days how do you think the church will react? **I Cor 1:10, Rom 12:16.**
14. Peter's message marked a turning point in the direction of the church. Vs 22. Compare this to the conversion of Cornelius in Chapter 10 and the Ethiopian Eunuch in Chapter 8

### **Barnabas and Saul at Antioch**

15. Why might the disciples be preaching the gospel to the Jews only?
16. What are the possible hindrances preaching the gospel today?
17. Can we identify the advantage of diversity on the spread of the gospel? Vs 20.
18. Could Peter's encounter and explanations to the Apostles have influenced the sending of Barnabas?
19. Identify the operations of the Holy Spirit in the spread of the gospel. Why do you think the revelation to Peter was so important at that time?
20. Why do you think the Apostles sent Barnabas?
21. Did the Apostles ask Barnabas to go and get Paul and did getting Paul to join him cause any troubles in the church?
22. Calling the disciples Christians was not initially a good thing?

## **Relief to Judea**

23. Apart from the word Christians which was used for the disciples in Antioch, what did the bible call the believers? Vs 29.
24. Can we call the believers disciples today?
25. Who prompted the disciples to send relief to the disciples in Judea? II Cor 8:12, I Cor 16:2
26. Why did they not send food to every other person in Judea but the disciples? Gal 6:10.

CONCLUSION: The business of the gospel is not limited to a people. We were commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to the whole world as a trigger to His second coming. The easiest way to delay His coming is not to preach the gospel and operate in segregation. This will thus give the enemy more advantage to preach his own message and win more candidates to hell. We must not see anyone as unqualified to hear the gospel if we are going to let the gospel flow unhindered.