



UNSTOPPABLE - ACTS 11:19-30

STARTING THE DISCUSSION...

Too often we focus on the superstars instead of those who support them. In football its easy to focus on a good quarterback and forget the need for good offensive line. We focus on the movie stars and forget about the other actors, directors and people who work on the movie. But that is not how God operates. We saw in the conversion with Peter, that God wanted to make it very clear that the Gentiles would be included in the church, but Peter was far from the only one that God was using to reach the world. We see that while Peter was speaking to Cornelius, the rest of the church was also hard at work sharing the gospel and seeing the Gentiles come to faith. We see many people come to faith through the unnamed faithfulness of the church. We are invited to rejoice in the work of God, not just among a few, but among the church as a whole! The church is called to share the good news of Jesus and the practical resources we have, to demonstrate the glory of God. We are invited into this work!

KEY TEXT: ACTS 11:19-30

¹⁹ Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. ²⁰ But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. ²² The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they



sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, ²⁴ for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. ²⁵ 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.

²⁷ Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

²⁸ And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). ²⁹ So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. ³⁰ And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Additional Texts: Acts 8:4, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 8:9

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is the timeline for this passage? Look up where the martyrdom of Stephen took place in the book of Acts and trace all the events that happened because of it.
2. How should we understand the prophecy of Agabus? How does his prophecy relate to passages like 1 Corinthians 14? What does it teach us about New Testament prophets?

APPLYING THE WORD

3. The early church believers were faithful in sharing Jesus wherever they went. What is one way you can intentionally focus your speech on Jesus this week?
4. The lives of the believers in Antioch were so changed as they grew as disciples of Christ that they were called Christians there first. If you had lived in Antioch in the first century the way you live your life now, would you have been included in that group? Why or why not?

PRAYING & ACTING



1. Share with your group the name(s) of one or two people that you would like the opportunity to share the gospel with in your life. Pray that God would give you opportunities to share and hold one another accountable to be reaching out.
2. How can your Life Group reach out to your community this week? Who can you invite to join your group?

