

Sermon Notes

NO LIMITS

“God’s Family is Bigger than You Think”

God’s Family is Bigger than You Think! (Acts 11:19-30)

REVIEW:

- The Book of Acts was written by LUKE.
- Christianity is a MOVEMENT, not an INSTITUTION.
- The movement is advanced by HOLY SPIRIT – POWERED witnesses.

Acts 1:8

City of Antioch – 500,000 population, crossroads, melting pot, culturally diverse and influential, about 300 miles north of Jerusalem, known for beautiful architecture, streets, and buildings.

Acts 11:19-30

Previous strands from the “Acts” storyline:

- Believers are scattered because of persecution (Acts 8)
- “Hellenists” are an issue in the church (Acts 6)
- Barnabas as an encourager (Acts 4 – large donor; Acts 9 – helps Saul)
- Saul/Tarsus (Acts 9 – Saul is from Tarsus and escapes back to Tarsus)
- Authority of the Apostles and Elders of the Jerusalem Church
 - o Samaria (Acts 8 – sent Peter and John to verify/encourage)
 - o Caesarea (Acts 11 – approved the new church after Peter’s report)
 - o Antioch (Acts 11 – sent Barnabas, Paul, and others to verify/encourage)

What does Acts 11 teach us about God's big family?

1. Believers are JOINED TO a family in Christ.
2. Family of Jesus is DIVERSE – everyone's INVITED.
3. Family of Christ is UNIFIED based on what we share in common:
 - a. Beliefs
 - b. Practices
 - c. Spirit
 - d. Identity
4. Our family is global.
5. Our family is local.

Application Questions:

1. Are you in the family?
 2. Are you a global Christian? How do you live this out?
 3. Are you identified with a church family?
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