

The Triumph of the Gospel Seen In Healthy Churches

August 5, 2020

Introduction

The whole issue of discipleship is not a side bar conversation for professing believers. On the contrary, to be a follower of Jesus Christ means that we are in the lifelong pursuit of being His disciple. The supernatural miracle of the new birth includes the hearing of Christ's call to us in which He says,

“Come to me...” (Matthew 11:28)

“Follow me...” (Matthew 4:19)

“Abide in me...” (John 15:4)

“Believe also in me...” (John 14:1)

Jesus said in John 10, *“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.”*

I cannot think of any great security than the one offered in Jesus Christ. Jesus said that His sheep hear His voice, and they follow Him. J.D. Greear points out correctly,

“You don't follow Jesus like you follow someone on Twitter, where you are free to take or leave their thoughts at your leisure. Following Jesus is not letting Him come into your life to be an influence, even if it's a significant influence. Following Jesus means submitting to Him in all areas at all times regardless of whether you agree with what He says or not.”

Through the years we have walked together in God's grace, I have prayed for a disciple-making culture in this Body that would take greater and stronger effect into our lives. In our journey, I have often pointed you to the examples we find in Scripture, and in essence said, “By God's grace and for His glory, let's follow this example of obedience.” That has certainly been true in our study in the book of Acts. In recent Wednesday nights we have looked at the triumph of the Gospel from Jerusalem outwardly to the ends of the earth.

With every struggle and trial, Luke records how the word of God continued to spread. One important church in the advance of the Gospel was the church at Antioch. They possessed a disciple-making culture within the church and would send their very best to the mission field.

~ACTS 11:19-26

I. The Church in Antioch was Biblical and Christ-Centered. (11:19,20)

II. God's Grace Was on Display (11:21-24)

*THEY CROSSED MAJOR CULTURAL BARRIERS

*THEY WERE EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

*THEY WERE COURAGEOUS IN THEIR OBEDIENCE

*THEY WERE FAITHFUL WITH THEIR SPIRITUAL GIFTEDNESS

III. Disciple-Making Through Consistent Teaching and Modeling of Sound Doctrine and Christian Living

THEY HAD A CLEAR VISION REGARDING THE GREAT COMMISSION

THEY WERE FERVENT IN SEEKING THE LORD (13:2)

Prayer and Fasting-

THEY SENT OUT THEIR VERY BEST TO THE MISSION FIELD.

Conclusion

When it comes to the investment of our lives, the plan of our Savior is that we make disciples. Beginning with those closest to us and expanding outwardly to others. When we gather as a Body, we gather for that reason, that we would all follow hard after Jesus Christ in a long obedience in the same direction.