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## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 9/10/2017

Acts 11:19-12:25 – “Marks of a Disciplemaking Church” by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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This text completes the hinge chapters of 9-12 in the book of Acts. It is here that we see the early church facing persecution, joyfully enduring, and taking the good news of the gospel to the ends of the earth as the first Gentile church is established in Antioch. The early church faithfully carried out the mission given by Jesus himself by displaying these marks of a disciplemaking church:

- 1) True conversion (11:20-23a)
- 2) A discipleship culture (11:23-26)
- 3) A missional mindset (11:24b)
- 4) Compassionate generosity (11:27-30)
- 5) Connection with other churches (11:27-30)
- 6) Prayerful through suffering (12:1-24)

### Quotations

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“It has the ring of truth: ordinary truth, down-to-earth truth, at the very moment that it is telling us something truly extraordinary and heaven-on-earthish.” -Wright

“The essential for ‘being membered’ is faith, accompanied by repentance, resulting in public confession, signifying that one is joined to Christ and His body, the church.” -ZF bylaws

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) In what ways are you thankful for the clear evidence of the Lord’s grace at work in your life during the past week?
- 2) Luke notes that one of the reasons the early church multiplied was their true conversion, which could be summarized as remaining faithful to Jesus with steadfast purpose (11:23). When considering this same question, how would you answer it: Are you remaining faithful to Christ with steadfast purpose?
- 3) Disciplemaking churches are made up of disciples helping others disciples to grow and mature. In what ways are you encouraging others to be faithful to Christ with steadfast purpose?
- 4) What are the New Testament guidelines for giving? In addition to Acts 11:29, what other verses in the NT provide instruction about how we are to give?
- 5) Since all churches are ultimately under the authority of God, we are called to be members of one Body. How are you (or could you be) connecting with other churches?
- 6) Why do we pray in the midst of suffering? What effect does it have? What happens when we pray with others while suffering?