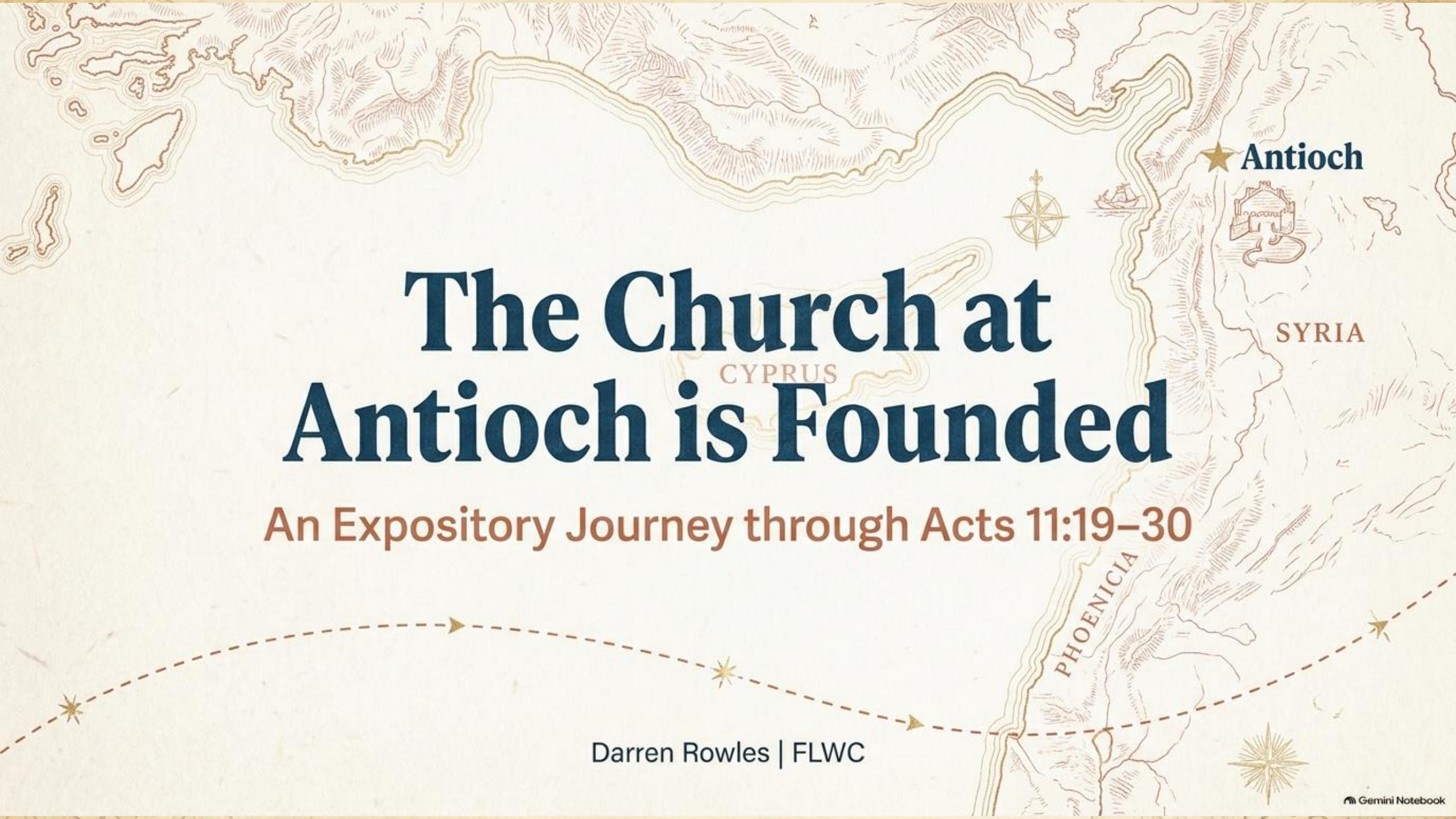




The Church at Antioch is Founded

An Expository Journey through Acts 11:19–30

Darren Rowles | FLWC

Paradigm Shift in the Metanarrative of Acts

Peter's Revelation The Catalyst

- The Gospel goes to the Gentiles.
- Religious traditions challenged.
- God's will accepted despite deep social constructs.

Antioch: The crucial sending church that will launch Paul and Barnabas.

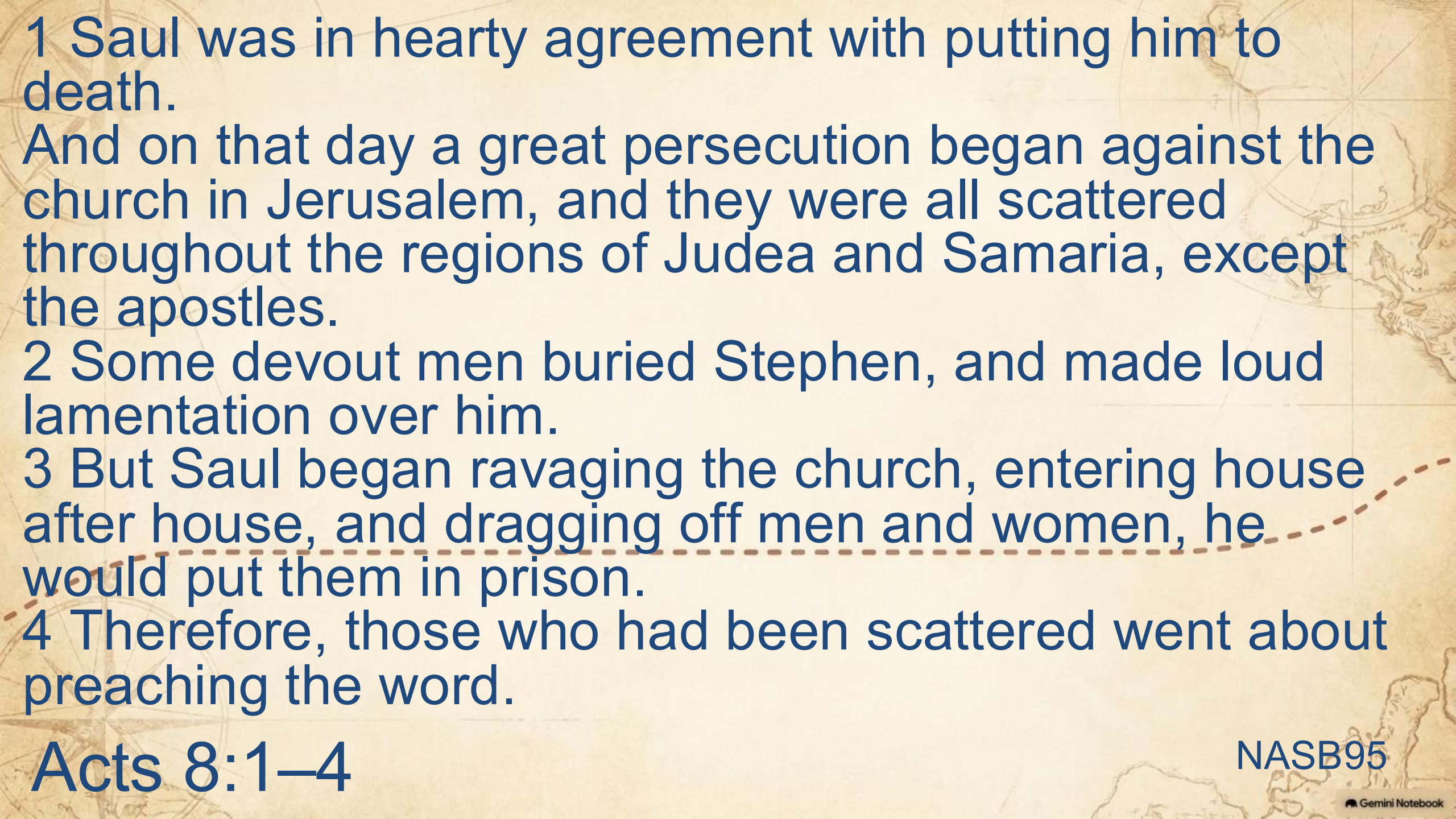
The Shift to Paul The Transition

- Focus moves from Peter (Acts 1st Half) to Paul (Acts 2nd Half).

19 So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.

Acts 11:19

NASB95

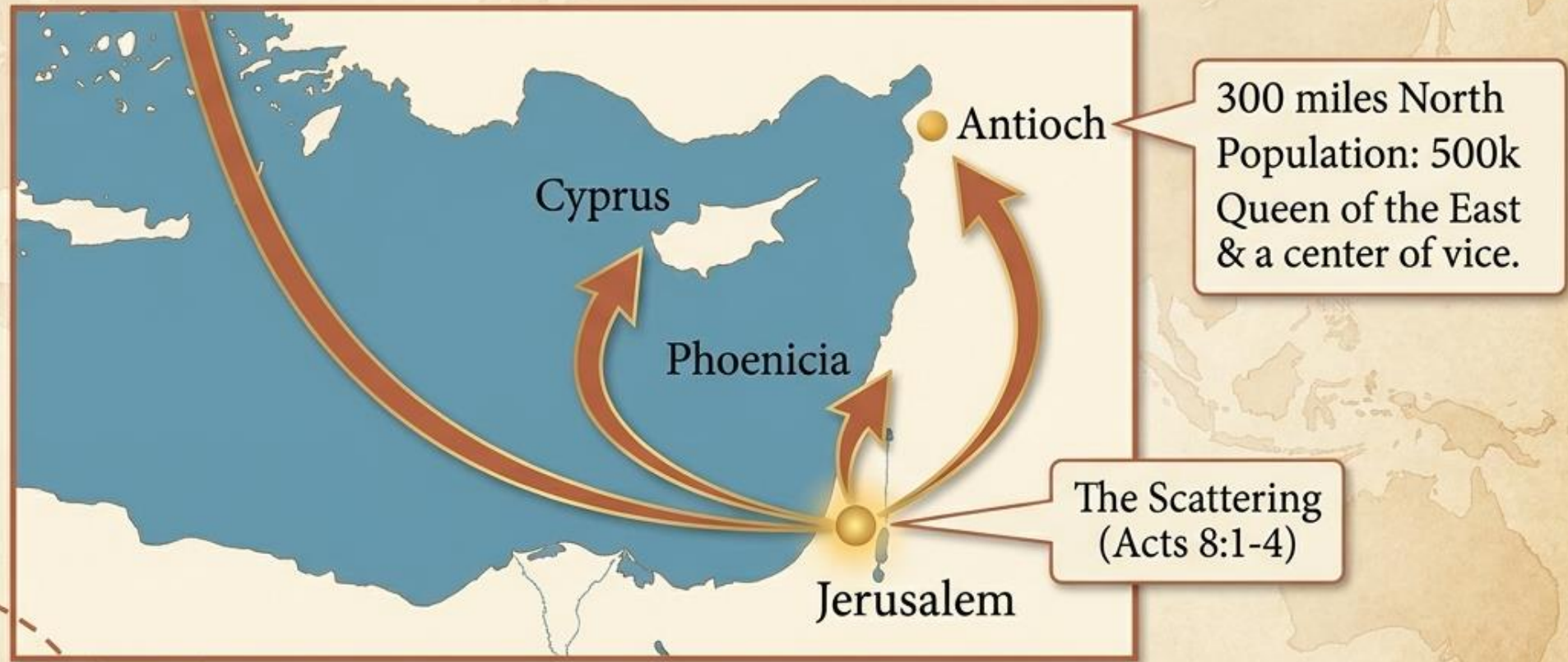
- 
- The background of the slide is a light beige color with a faint, stylized map of the Eastern Mediterranean region, including the Middle East and parts of Europe and Africa. The map is drawn in a light brown or tan color, showing coastlines and some internal geographical features.
- 1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.
And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.
 - 2 Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.
 - 3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.
 - 4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

Acts 8:1–4

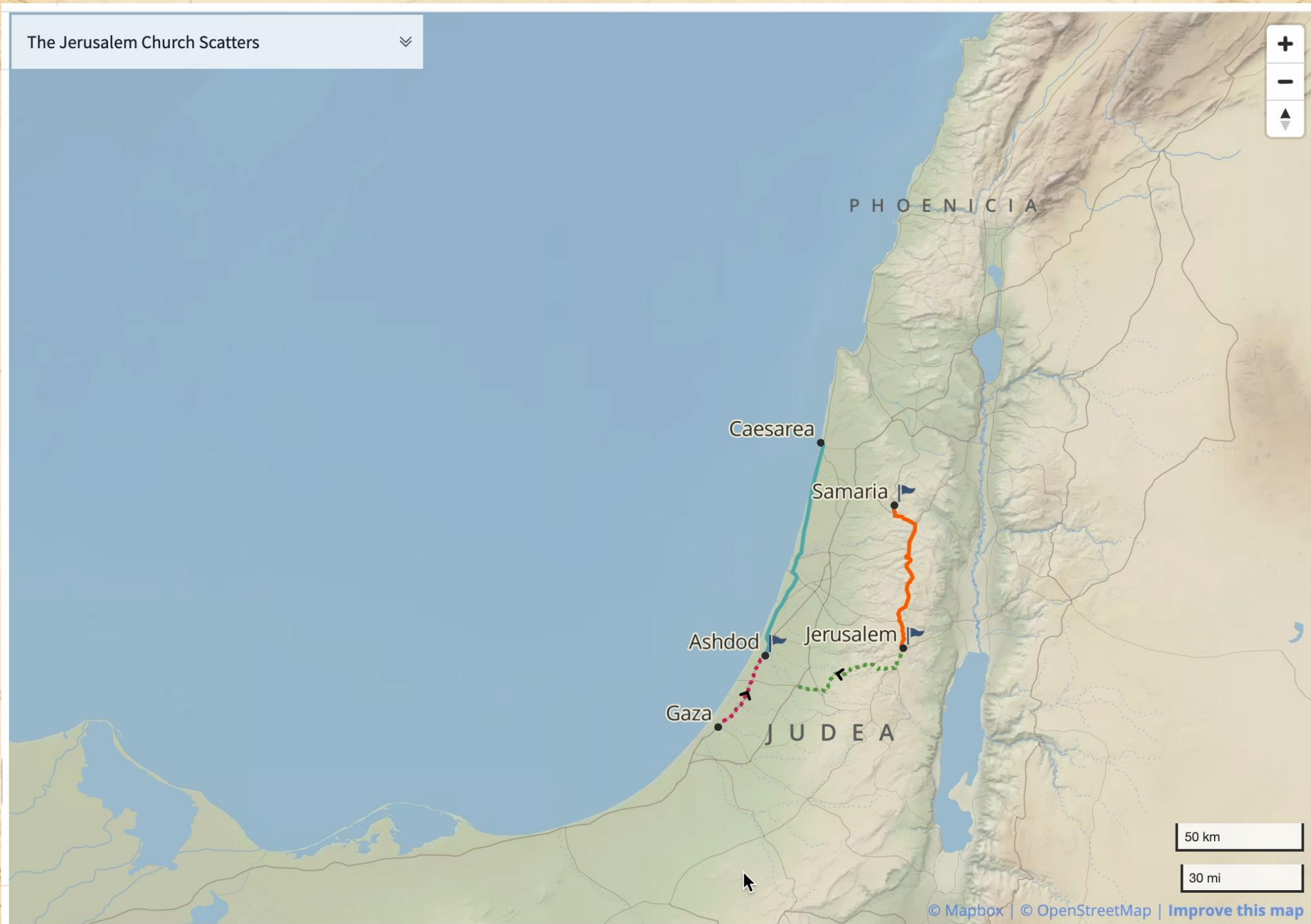
NASB95

Acts 11:19 (NASB95)

So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone.



If God can build His church in Antioch (or Las Vegas), He can build it here. (Matthew 16:18)



Acts 11:20 (NASB95)

But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

Wall Breaking

Jews

**Men of Cyprus
& Cyrene.**
Unnamed in text,
but famous in the
eyes of Jesus.

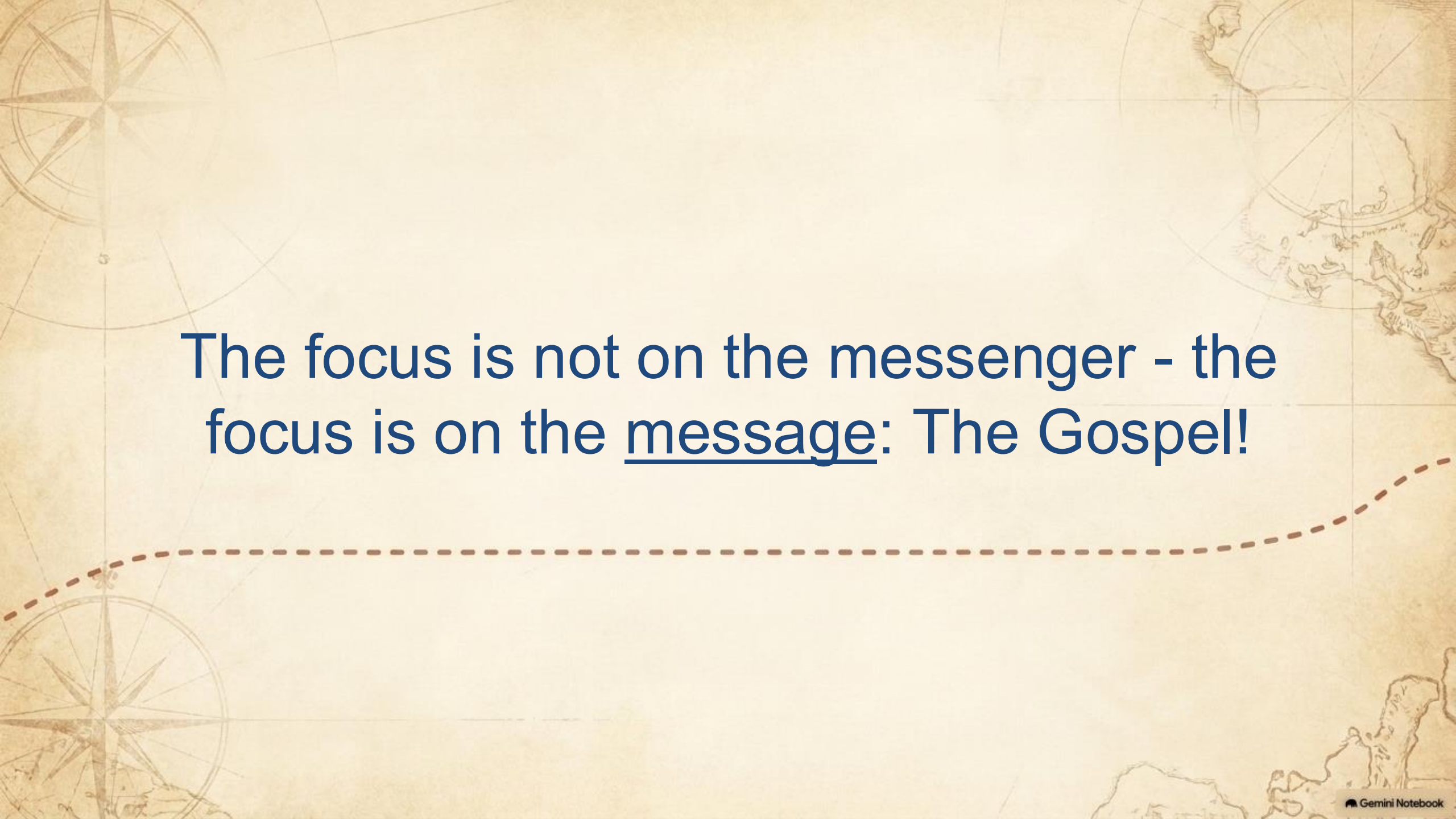


The Message:
Preaching the Lord
Jesus—the Gospel.
(Romans 1:16)

Greeks

Crossing Boundaries.

Breaking socio-economic, ethnic, and
religious prejudice through the Holy Spirit.

The background is a light beige, textured surface resembling aged parchment or a vintage map. It features faint, circular compass roses in the corners and a dashed brown line that curves across the lower half of the image. The text is centered in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

The focus is not on the messenger - the
focus is on the message: The Gospel!

Acts 11:21 (NASB95)

And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

'The hand of the Lord' = Jesus is put on par with Jehovah. God is at work, not human effort!



1. Hear

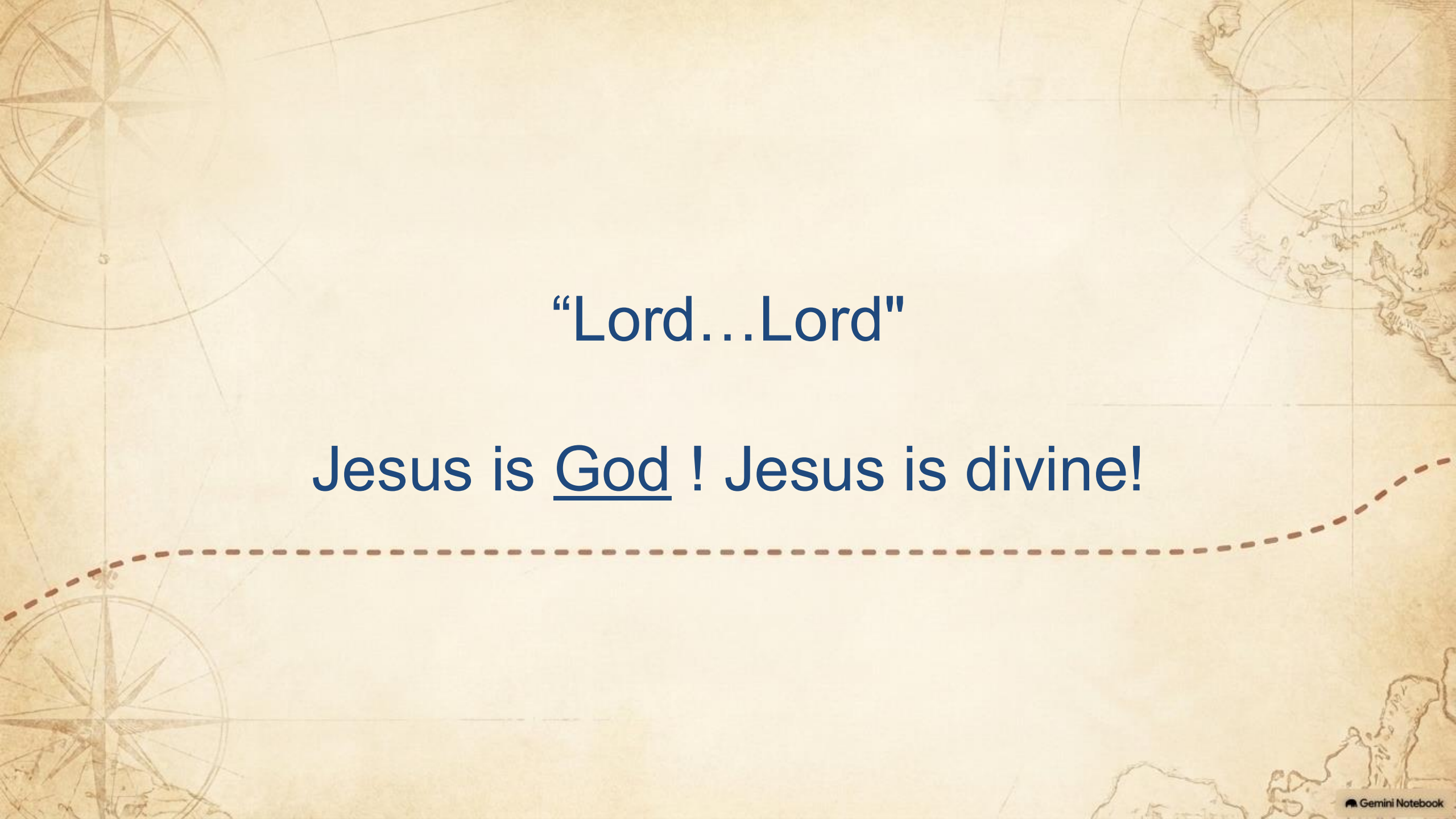
The Gospel is
preached.
(Romans 10:14)

2. Believe

Faith takes root.

3. Turn

Repentance—a
complete U-turn
from past lifestyles.

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“Lord...Lord”

Jesus is God ! Jesus is divine!

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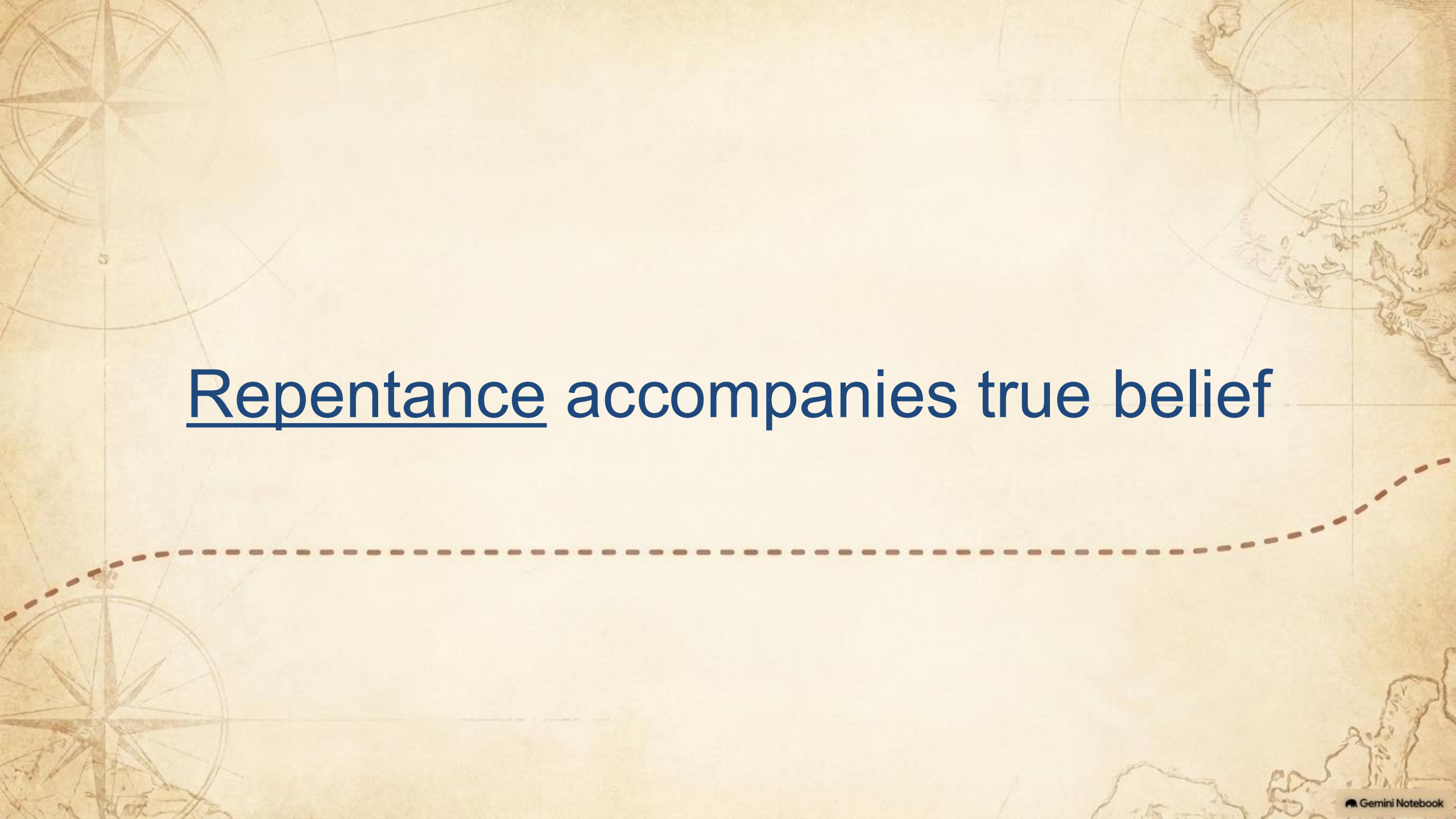
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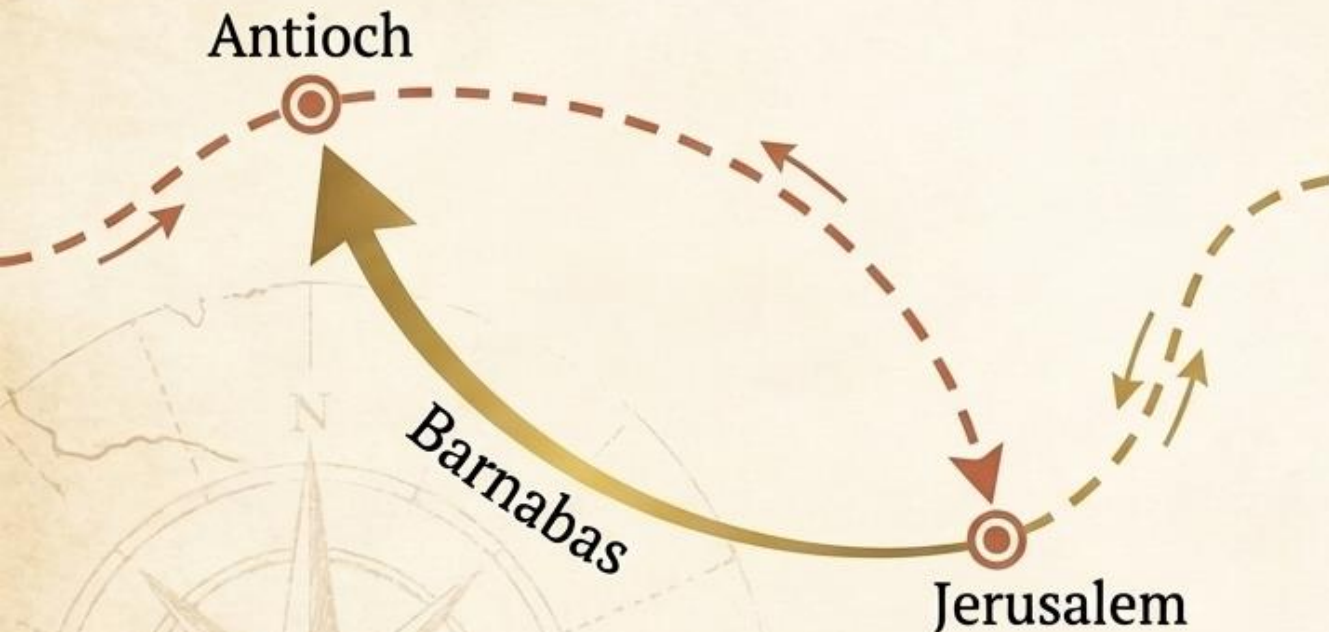
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Repentance accompanies true belief

Acts 11:22 (NASB95)

The news about them reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas off to Antioch.



The Sending Churches

Jerusalem (Acts 8)

Sent Peter & John
to Samaria to verify
Philip's ministry.

Jerusalem (Acts 11)

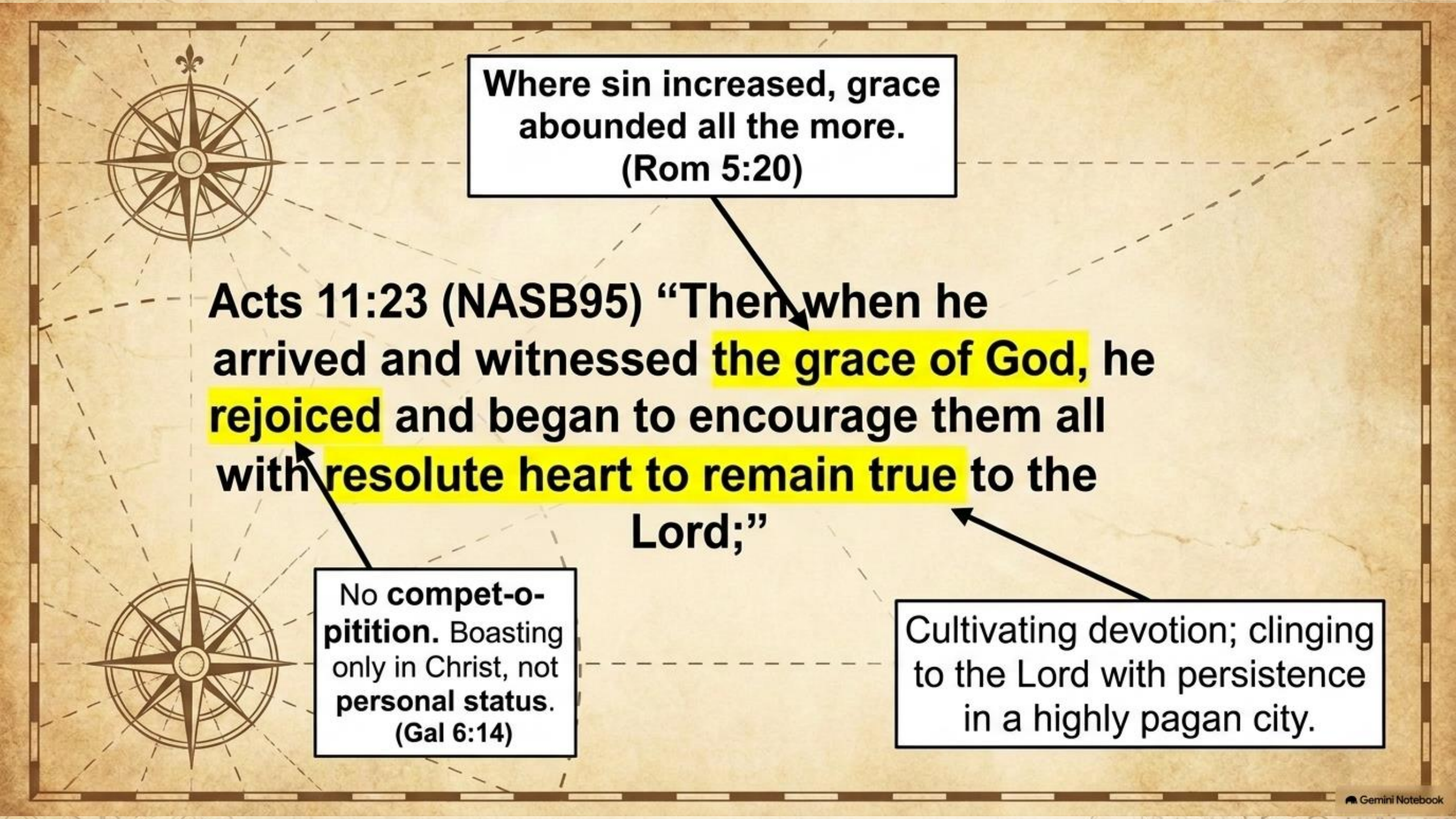
Sends Barnabas to
Antioch to verify the
Gentile conversion.

Purpose: Verification, support, and humble contextualization.
Antioch is poised to become the next great sending church through multiplication.

36 Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth,
who was also called Barnabas by the
apostles (which translated means Son of
Encouragement),
37 and who owned a tract of land, sold it
and brought the money and laid it at the
apostles' feet.

Acts 4:36–37

NASB95



Where sin increased, grace
abounded all the more.
(Rom 5:20)

**Acts 11:23 (NASB95) “Then when he
arrived and witnessed the grace of God, he
rejoiced and began to encourage them all
with resolute heart to remain true to the
Lord;”**

No **compet-o-
pition**. Boasting
only in Christ, not
personal status.
(Gal 6:14)

Cultivating devotion; clinging
to the Lord with persistence
in a highly pagan city.

20 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 5:20–21

NASB95

Acts 11:24

Acts 11:24 (NASB95)

for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

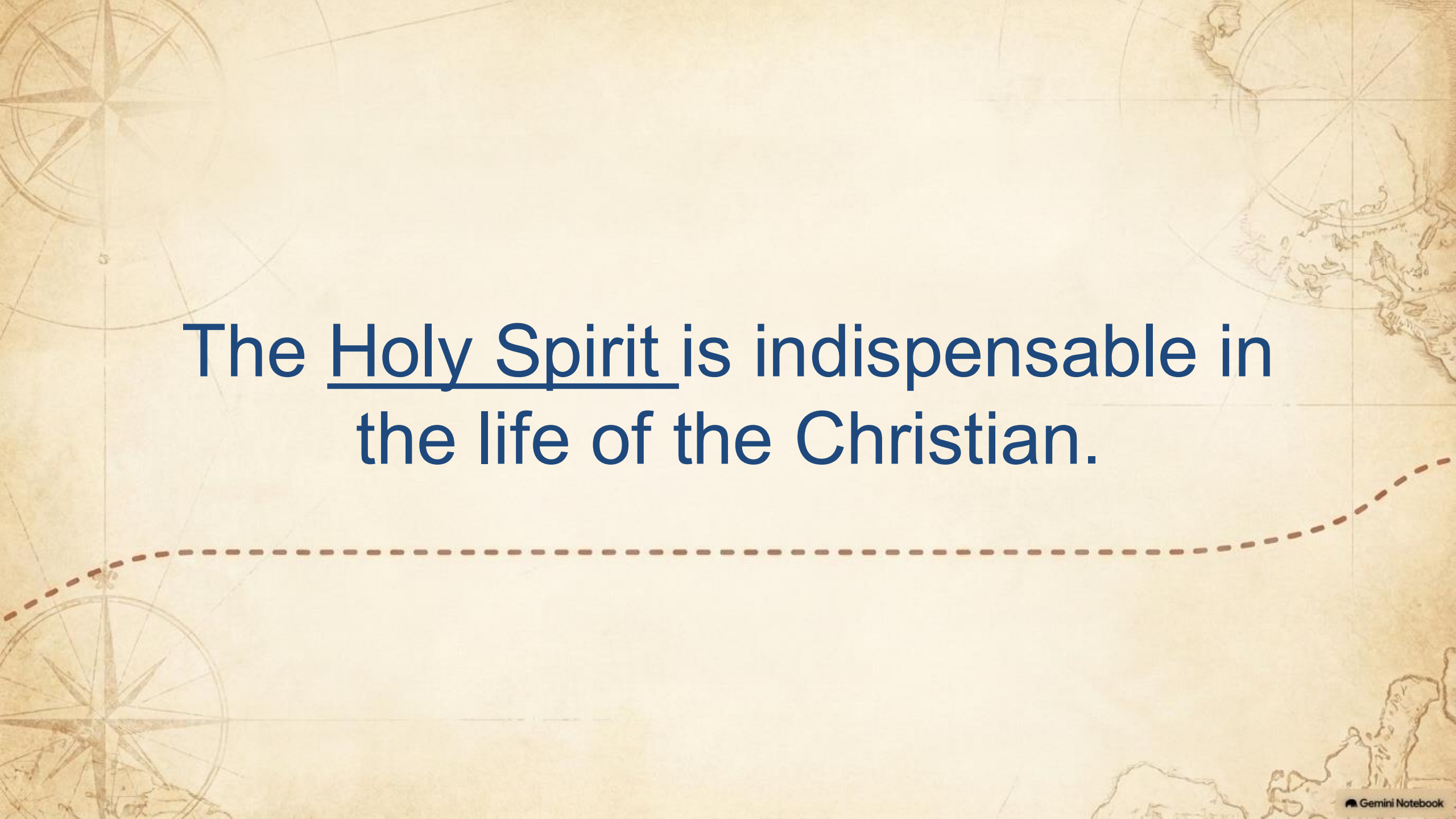
**Profile: Barnabas
(Son of Encouragement)**

Character:	A good man (Integrity)
Empowerment:	Full of the Holy Spirit (Indispensable for ministry)
Gifting:	Full of faith
Result:	Multiplication (Considerable numbers brought to the Lord)



The D.L. Moody Principle.

We must seek the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to move beyond working merely in “the energy of the flesh.”

The background is a light beige, textured surface resembling aged parchment or paper. It features faint, stylized illustrations of compass roses in the corners and a dashed brown line that curves across the lower half of the image. The text is centered in a dark blue, serif font.

The Holy Spirit is indispensable in
the life of the Christian.

Acts 11:25 (NASB95)

And he left for Tarsus to look for Saul;

Antioch

Tarsus

Building Your Brand

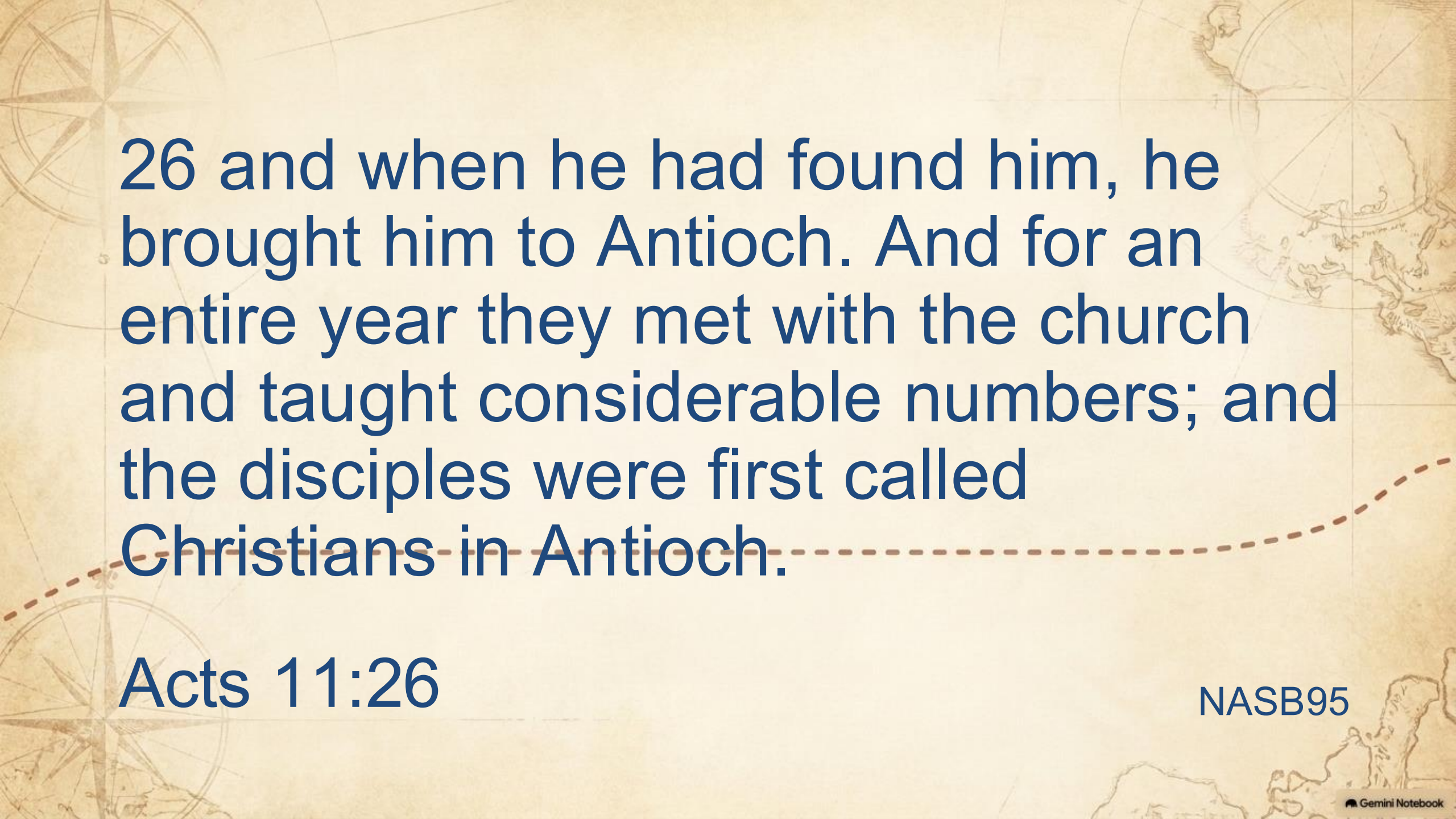
Extending own ministry,
focusing on earthly status,
furthering personal importance.

Building the Kingdom

Selfless, strategic, finding
the exact right person for
God's mission.



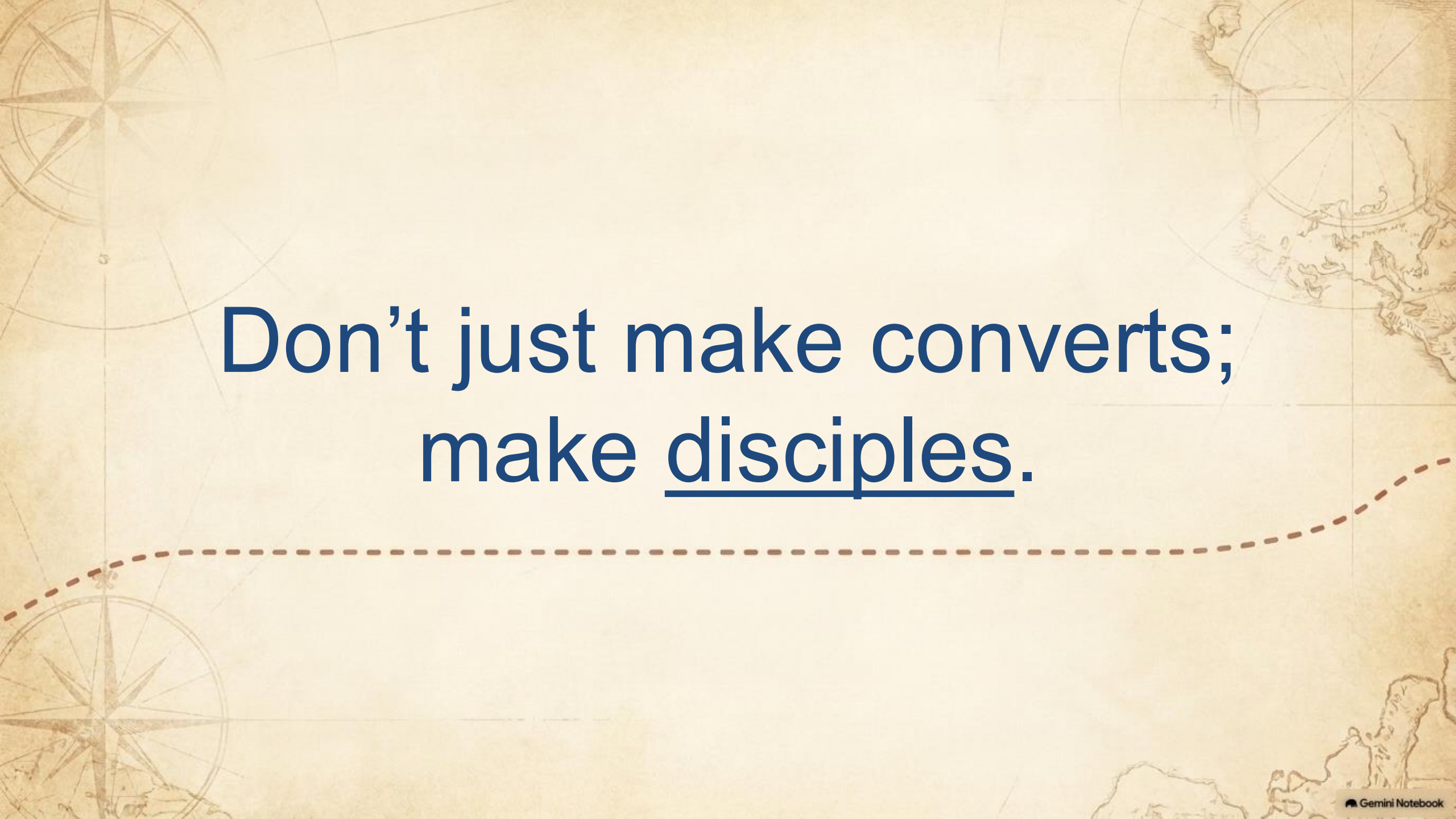
A Spirit-filled leader focuses on heavenly reward and Kingdom strategy over personal brand building.

The background is a light beige color with faint, stylized maps of the Eastern Hemisphere. Two compass roses are visible, one in the top left and one in the bottom left. A dashed brown line curves across the lower half of the image, starting from the left and ending on the right.

26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Acts 11:26

NASB95

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Don't just make converts;
make disciples.

Acts 11:26 (NASB95)

and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. And for an entire year they met with the church church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

1 Entire Year

Discipleship is not a quick process.
We are called to make disciples,
not just converts.

CHRISTIAN

Meaning: "Little Anointed Ones" /
Belonging to the party of Jesus.

Origin: A distinct identifier
given by the Gentiles.

Application: Anointed by the Holy
Spirit to become Christlike in thought,
word, and action—enabling a
supernatural life of love and victory.

Acts 11:27 (NASB95)

Now at this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.

Jerusalem



Antioch

Unnamed but Known by God

- Prophets functioned in the early church to bear messages and revelation from God.
- They were not “famous” like Old Testament figures, but they faithfully operated in the gifts distributed by the Holy Spirit.
- Fame is irrelevant when you are known by the only One who matters.

Acts 11:28 (NASB95)

One of them named Agabus stood up and began to indicate by the Spirit that there would certainly be a **great famine all over the world**. And this took place in the reign of Claudius.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Messenger

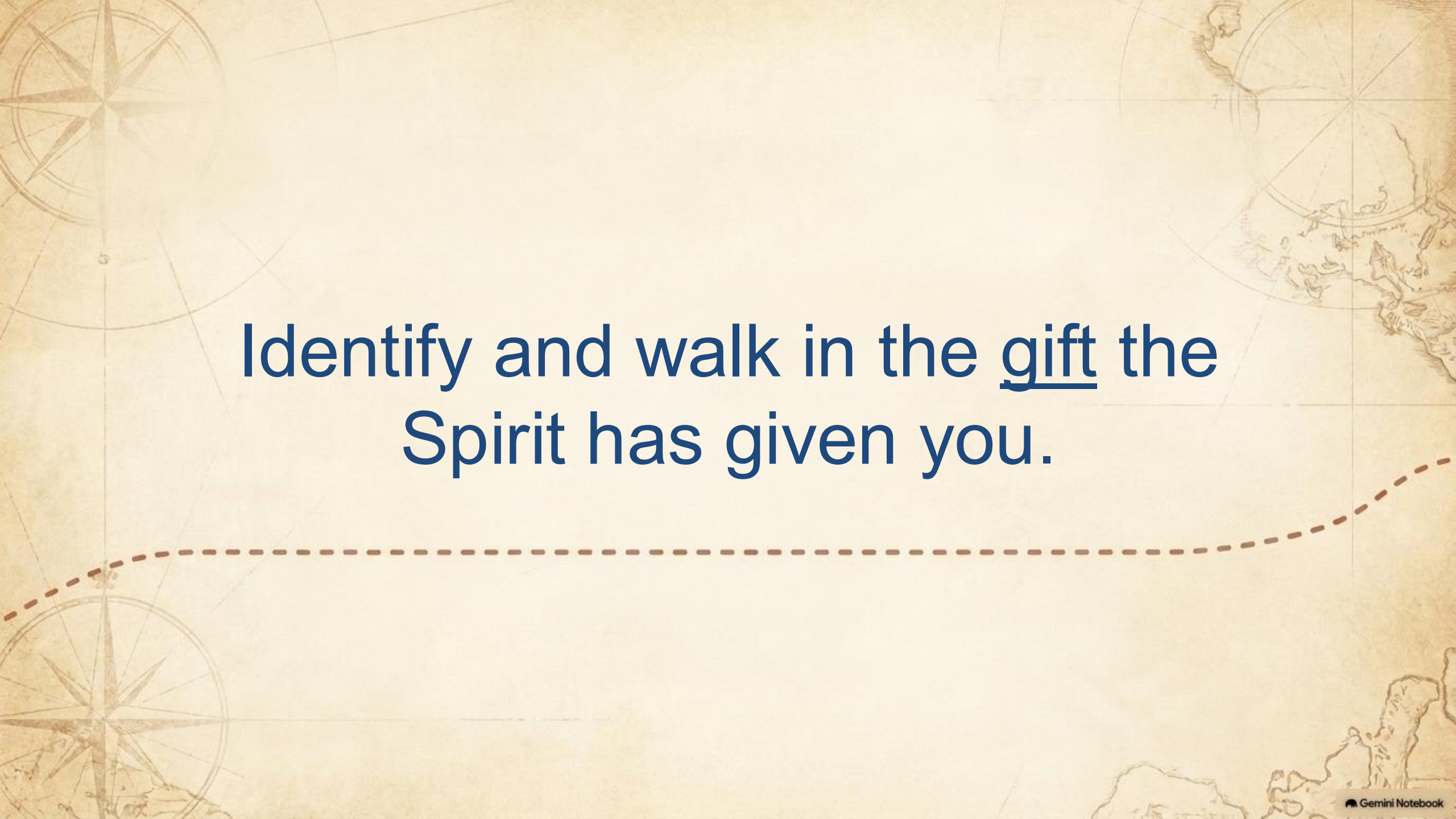
Agabus (Disclosing what is to come via the Spirit of truth - John 16:13).

The Era

Reign of Roman Emperor Claudius (A.D. 41–54).

The Event

Severe famines struck the Roman Empire, devastating Judea. (*Josephus records mass starvation due to lack of funds*).

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Identify and walk in the gift the
Spirit has given you.

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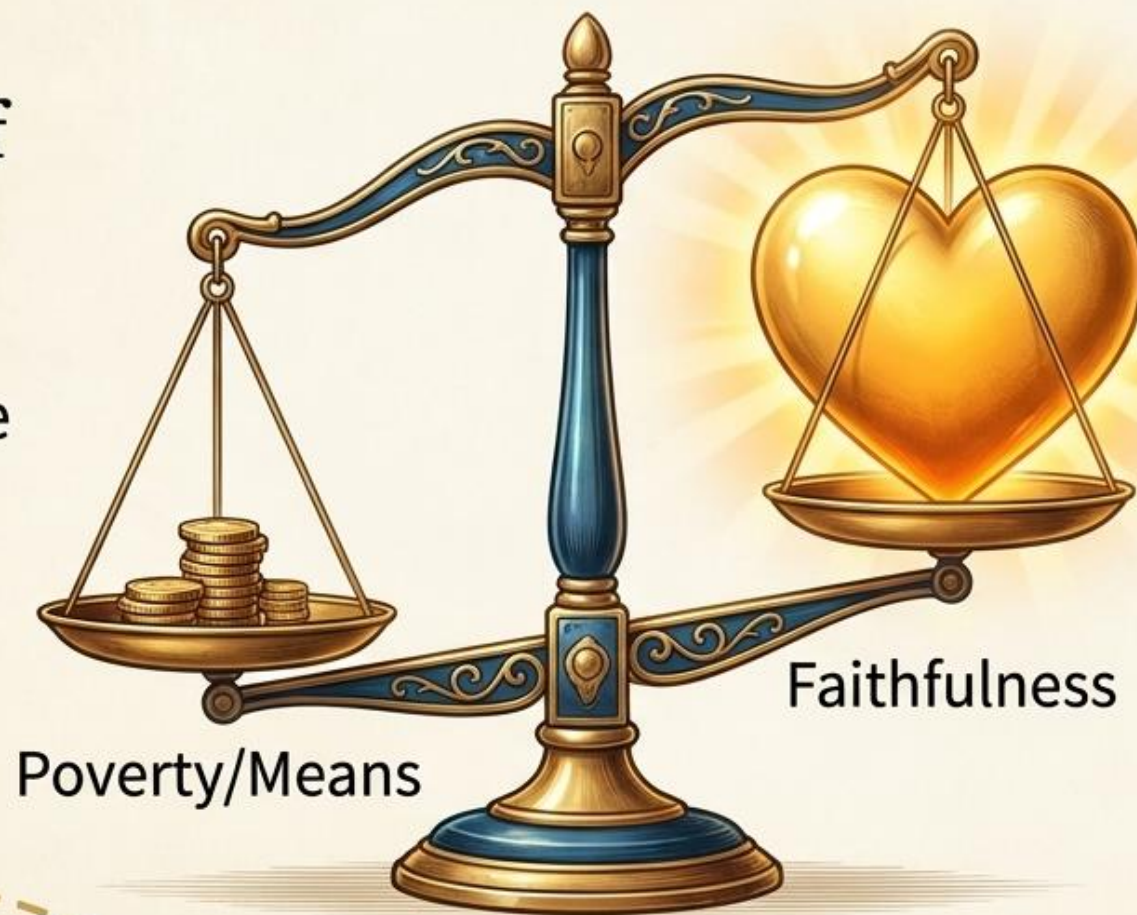
The Event

Severe famines struck the Roman Empire, devastating Judea. (*Josephus records mass starvation due to lack of funds*).

Acts 11:29 (NASB95) And in the proportion that any of the disciples had means, each of them determined to send a contribution for the relief of the brethren living in Judea.

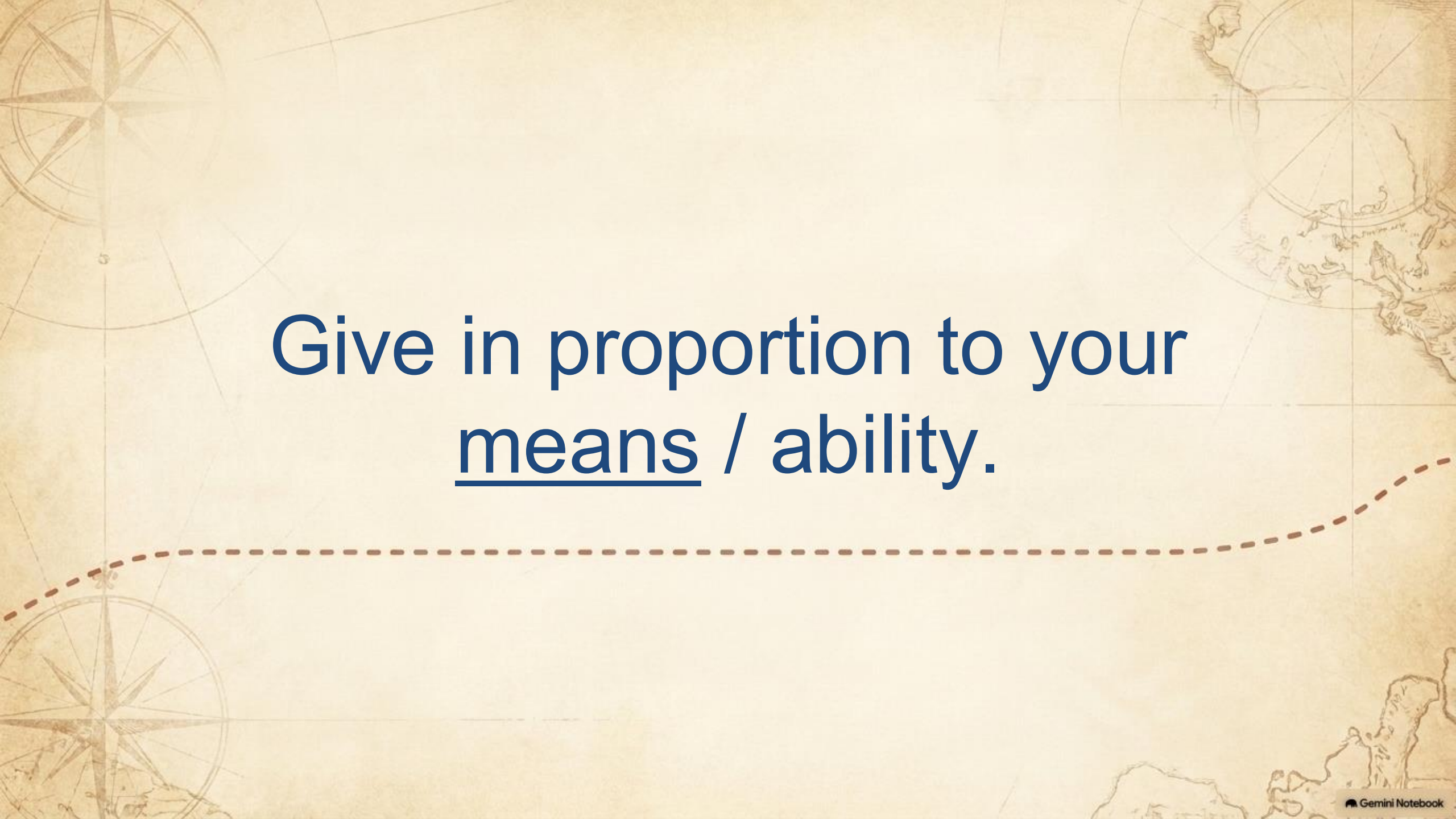
The Principle of Proportionate Generosity

- It is not about the size of the gift or sacrifice.
- It is about the faithfulness of the giver.

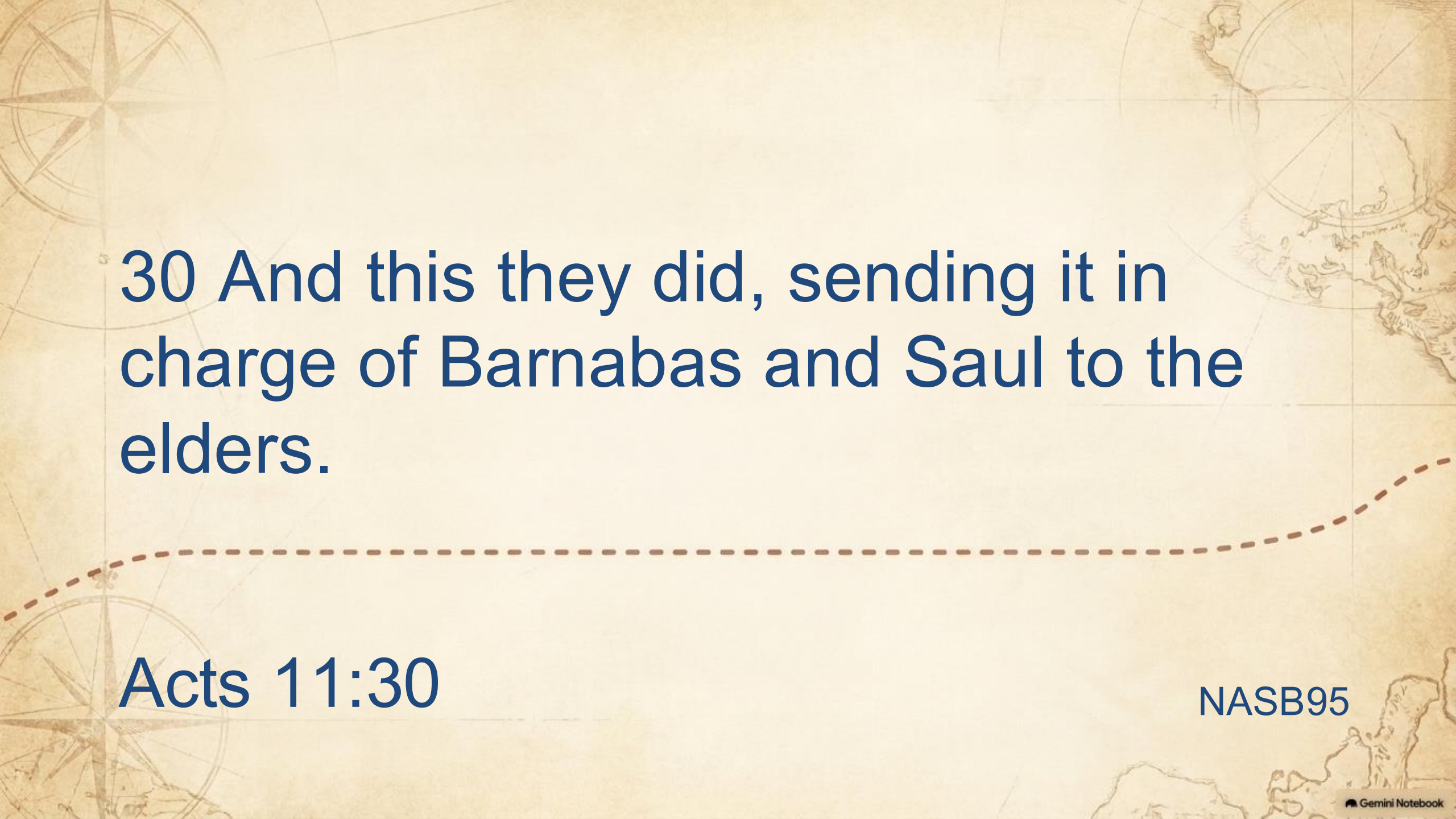


The Widow's Mite (Luke 21)

Give in proportion to your means and ability. Do not compare your gift to others; simply be faithful.

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Give in proportion to your
means / ability.

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30 And this they did, sending it in charge of Barnabas and Saul to the elders.

Acts 11:30

NASB95

Acts 11:30 (NASB95)

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The Antioch Mindset Flowchart

1. See a Need

An immediate outward focus and global awareness, rather than turning inward.

2. Partner Up

Barnabas & Saul stepping into their first sent mission together.

3. Meet the Need

Sending relief practically and submissively (to the elders for oversight).

The Stage is Set: Fulfilling John 17

Antioch's Legacy

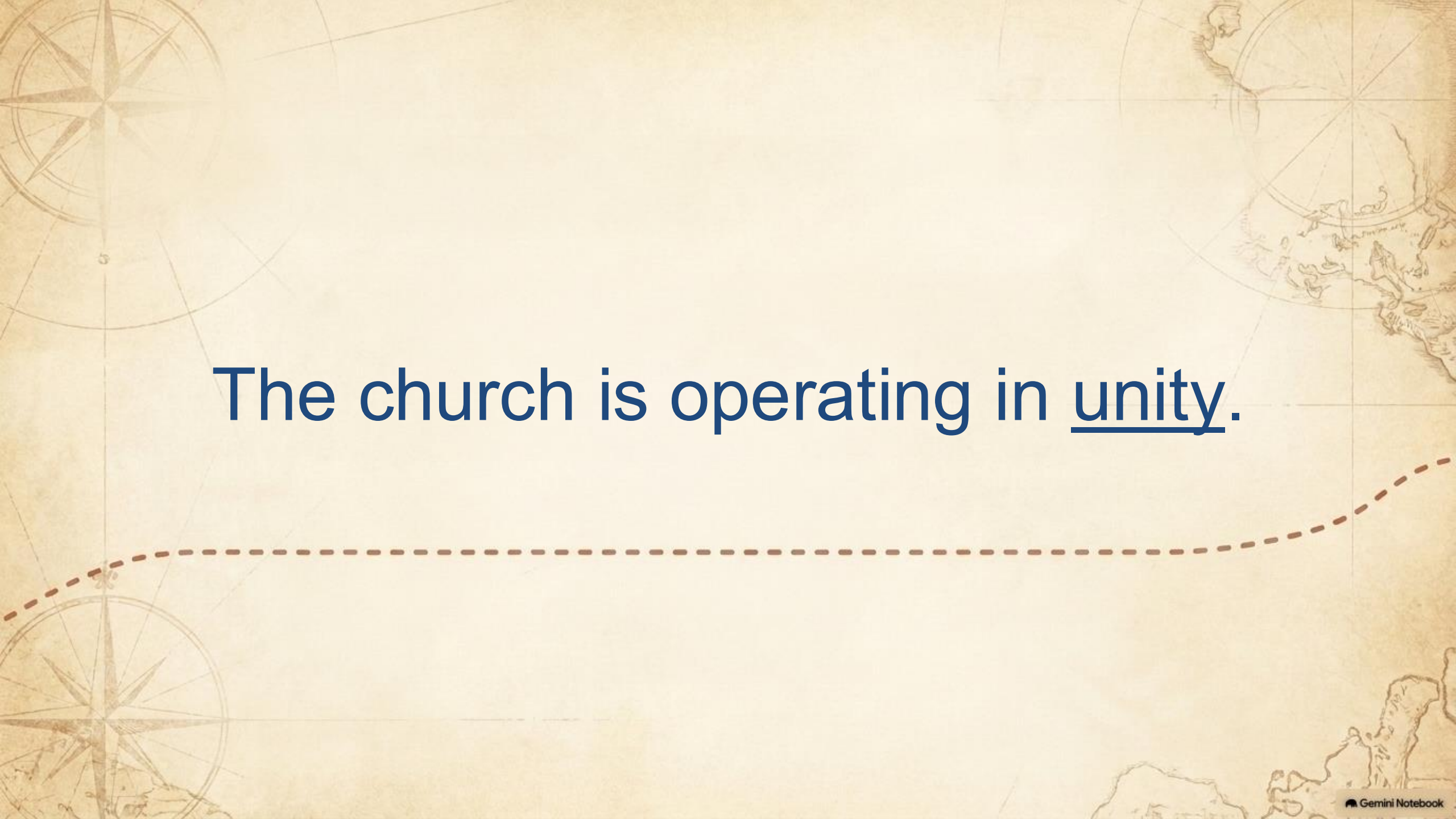
- Prejudices torn down.
- Jew & Gentile unified in Christ.
- A radical 'Sending' Church operating in unprecedented unity.

Our Mandate

Guatemala: Partnering with Casa Shalom Orphanage.

Church Planting: Developing disciples and leaders to plant our first daughter church.

If God can do it in Antioch, He can do it here.

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The church is operating in unity.

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