Discussion Notes

Antioch, Part 2 • Acts 11:25–30
November 1, 2026 • Dave Solmes

Part 1: Engage

- Read: Acts 11:25–30
- At your initial reading, what stands out to you? (key themes, words, phrases, people?)
- What questions do you have about the text?

Sermon Outline:

Until this part in the story of the early church, Jerusalem had acted as a kind of hub — a centre — for the early believers, but the very presence of the growing group in Joppa, Caesarea, Jerusalem, and Antioch would change that. Communities, in which the life of Jesus is taking shape in ordinary people, is happening. They are learning to follow Him, to recognize His work in others, and to respond to the needs around them.

What we see in our passage today is how the Holy Spirit was establishing priorities for these people and these groups of people. With Jesus in the centre of their lives and communities, what were the things that Jesus wants them to pay attention to and prioritize? This passage begins to answer some of these questions for us today, as we carry on as followers of Jesus as well.

Verse 25: Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul.

- Barnabas knew there was a pressing need to teach and help disciple all these people — all were new followers of Jesus.
- Jesus was asking them to prioritize teaching & learning.
- All about what we want for people.

Verse 26: So, for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

- Helping people become grounded and guided by their faith.
- Grow in our understanding of Jesus, obedience to His Word, and love for one another.

Verse 26: The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.

- The word, "Christian" immediately identified them as people associated with Christ.
- Their lives and their community had become recognizable because of their relationship with Jesus.

Verses 27–28: During this time some prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them, named Agabus, stood up and through the Spirit predicted that a severe famine would spread over the entire Roman world.

- Listens to the Holy Spirit.
- Believed that the Holy Spirit was active among them — not only in their worship and teaching, but also in guiding them as they lived out their faith.
- We should not separate "spiritual" and "practical" realities.
- Attentive to what God is saying.
- Attentive to people's needs around them.

Verses 29–30: The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea.

- Everyone was invited to participate.
- They helped people beyond their own congregation.
- They followed through with giving.

Part 2: Observation

The church in Antioch was a community in which the life of Jesus was taking shape in ordinary people. They are learning to follow Him, to recognize His work in others, and to respond to the needs around them.

Part 3: Application Questions

- What is your key takeaway from this passage:
    - Greater need for learning and discipleship?
    - Greater need to listen to the Spirit?
    - Greater need for your faith to find action and expression?
- Anything that you feel is important for you to understand or believe?
- Anything that God wants you to desire or do in response to this passage?
- In what ways does belonging to God affect all your behaviour?
    - Habits
    - Relationships
    - Priorities
    - Lifestyle
    - Finances

Part 4: Pray for each other.