

House2House Questions – Week of Sunday, December 7

Acts 11

Get to Know Me

1. Do you find that you are generally open or closed to having your mind changed?

Into the Bible

Read Acts 11:1-3

2. Word had gotten out that God was working among the Gentiles and yet some of the Jewish Christians challenged Peter because he had visited and eaten with Gentiles. It might seem trivial to us at this point in church history, but this was something new for these Jewish followers of Christ. What are some hangups that we might have as Christians that may not be biblical and in opposition to work that God might be doing in our communities?

Read Acts 11:4-15

3. Peter shared the story how God revealed His plan for the Gentiles to him. Have you ever experienced God challenging a preconceived idea or belief that you held until He revealed the truth to you?

Read Acts 11:16-18

4. Peter didn't merely rely upon the circumstances that he witnessed but matched what he observed to the teaching of Jesus (Mark 1:8). What do the following passages teach us about the importance of seeking God's word for truth and not relying merely upon our interpretations of the events around us?
 - a. Acts 17:11
 - b. 2 Timothy 3:16
 - c. 2 Peter 1:20
 - d. 1 John 4:1

Read Acts 11:19-21

5. Next narrative switches to these unnamed disciples who took the Gospel to Antioch. This was an unlikely place to have ministry success since it was known for commerce and immorality. What does this passage teach us about the outcome of their ministry and the reason behind the results?

Read Acts 11:22-24

6. Make note of the qualities that are used to describe Barnabas. What are they and how might you grow in any of these qualities?

Read Acts 11:25-26

7. We learn that it was in Antioch where disciples of Christ were called *Christians*. The meaning of the word is “party of Christ” or “Christ’s People.” As bearers of that title, what kind of life do you think should accompany such an important title? Use the following verses to inform your answers.
 - a. Romans 13:11-14
 - b. Ephesians 4:13
 - c. 1 Peter 1:13-16

Read Acts 11:27-30

8. The chapter concludes with a story of generosity and sharing of blessings within the body of Christ. How might that spirit of sharing be practiced among the body of Christ in our church?

Application

9. How can we make sure that we are open to change when God’s word challenges a long-held belief or attitude in our lives?

Prayer Requests

- Pray for this year’s Christmas Eve Service. That many will be added to the kingdom.
- Ministry Highlight: Youth Ministry Team