

Living out your faith Pt 14
Acts 11:1-30

V1-17

- The response in the Jewish community is mixed concerning the Gentiles being saved, those who were with Peter rejoiced, but those in Jerusalem well they wanted to interrogate Peter about his methodology. Verse 3 – first, they criticize Peter and say – Peter tell us you didn't have fellowship with the gentiles, and second – tell us you didn't eat with them did you? Many of God's actions have been opposed by prejudice from within the body and outside the body. We see this in Acts 4:13 – opposition from outside that these men are unlearned. They can't teach or pastor if they haven't gone to school. And now we see the opposition from inside is that they can't be filled with the spirit if they are not Jews. Then verses 4-17 Peter response is that he had the same reservations until God intervened.

V18-30

- To their credit they were flexible, many in this position will be unbending and not only continue their hardened stand but try and forbid others from receiving. Because of the persecution that arose from Saul before he was converted the disciples had dispersed all over the region. Antioch, for instance was three hundred miles from Jerusalem yet believers put their faith in Christ. Just like the revival in Samaria, when the saints heard of it, they sent in reinforcements to help. Verse 22 – we're reintroduced to Barnabas meaning – son of encouragement. He is described as:
 1. A good man in a spiritual sense; filled with honesty and integrity.
 2. Full of the Holy Spirit.
 3. Full of faith.
- All three of these things go together. You can't be spiritual without being filled with the Spirit and you can't be filled with the Spirit without being full of faith. Verse 24 – because Barnabas was full of the Holy Spirit and full of Faith those around him couldn't help but be impacted by him, and in Verse 23 – we read that he encouraged them. But not just with any encouragement:
 1. Purpose of heart – speaks of the showbread in the temple exposed before God purposely and with intention, dedicated for His use and His alone. Nobody was to mess with the bread but those who God intended it for. So it is we are to dedicate our to God intended for His use.
 2. Continue with the Lord – Barnabas was saying you need this kind of dedication to continue with the Lord. Many will initially want to follow the Lord but few will continue. How many start out but eventually fall off?
- Verse 25 – Besides Corinth, Antioch was one of the most Godless cities. Barnabas goes to Tarsus and gets Saul and brought him to Antioch. It was in Antioch where believers were first called Christians – little Christ or Christ like; it is where believers made such an impression that they received this glorious name, which has remained for all these centuries.