

# **Studies in the Acts of the Apostles**

## **NT Survey Lesson 61--Acts 11**

**Introduction:** Peter's proclamation of the gospel to uncircumcised Gentiles resulted in a challenge from believers in Jerusalem who were zealous for the Law. Peter reported how God had made known by the outpouring the Holy Spirit on Gentiles that they also could be saved by faith just as Jews, without circumcision. In the latter half of the chapter Luke records the establishment of the church in Antioch from whom the gospel would spread to the whole Roman world.

**Lesson aim: To encourage the church to imitate the spiritual and numerical growth of the church at Antioch.**

### **Peter is challenged concerning his proclamation of the gospel to Gentiles without their being inducted into Judaism--Ac. 11:1-18**

1. What issue did some Jewish Christians raise with Peter about his actions? Why do you think they were concerned about this?
2. How did Peter determine to answer their concerns? (v.4) What does Peter tell them in v.5-17?
3. What convinced Peter that the Gentiles could also be saved by the gospel? Is this then the purpose for which the Gentiles received an outpouring of the Spirit before their baptism?
4. What was the reaction of the Jewish Christians to Peter's report?

### **The establishment and growth of the church at Antioch--Ac. 11:19-30**

1. What message was preached to those at Antioch? To whom did these sinners turn? What motivated them to do so?
2. What does it mean "the hand of the Lord was with them"? What resulted from this?

3. Why might Barnabas have been chosen to go to Antioch? What do we know about him from past studies? What kind of man was he? What did Barnabas encourage these new disciples to do?
4. How did Saul get involved in the work of teaching at Antioch?
5. What name did disciples wear in Antioch? What is the meaning of that name?
6. For how long did Barnabas and Saul work with the disciples there? What were the results?
7. What message did the prophet Agabus give to the disciples?
8. How did the saints at Antioch respond to the need of the brethren in Judea? By what standard did each determine his contribution?
9. What does Ac. 11:27-30 teach us about church benevolence? Some affirm that Jerusalem was the sponsoring church through which the contribution was distributed to the Judean churches. Is this true?