

Not Them!

“HELLENISTS”
Acts 11:19-30
April 30, 2017

The church in Antioch provides us with a model of church growth.

The proclamation of Jesus and devotion to Jesus propelled church growth.

I. Proclaim Jesus (19-21) (Outward thrust)

- A. Proclaim the good news (gospel) of Jesus.
- B. These are not church leaders who are proclaiming!
- C. A great number believed.

II. Devoted to Jesus (22-24) (Inward Growth)

Steadfast Devotion

III. Study the Word (25-26) (Inward Growth)

IV. Belong to Jesus (26b – 30) (Outward thrust)

- A. They were identified with Jesus: Christians.
- B. Their identification with Jesus superseded cultural divisions.

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

“WORSHIP THAT WORKS”
Acts 12:1 – 13:4

Historical Timeline:

Herod Agrippa was made king over all of Palestine in early 41AD by Emperor Claudius. He ruled for only three years, dying at the hand of the Lord in the Spring of 44AD. Herod had a disagreement with the residents of Tyre and Sidon which caused him to halt the food exports to them. This brought them to him seeking peace and setting up his own demise.

Passage Overview:

Herod's appointment by Claudius as king of Palestine brought renewed pressure on the Christians. Out of a desire to please his new subjects, he had James, the brother of John and disciple of Jesus, put to death. When he saw how this pleased the Jews, he arrested Peter as well, intending to bring him out to them, probably in order to kill him, after the Passover.

But the church began to pray earnestly and God intervened, miraculously releasing Peter from Herod's jail. The believers were stunned and encouraged by God's direct intervention, as they had prayed. But God was not done.

When Herod's ego caused him to accept the praise of men as if he were a god, the Lord struck him down. He died an ignominious death, being eaten by worms as he took his final breath.

Meanwhile, the church in Antioch was in prayer. The leaders had gathered to pray when the Lord spoke to them, calling them to set aside Barnabas and Saul for the work to which He had called them. They willingly let these two key leaders go, commissioning them to serve the Lord. The new missionary thrust of the church had begun!

Reading for Next Week: Acts 12:1 – 13:4