

World Changers

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2 Children at Risk - Sun 3-5pm in quad.
- B. Slide3 Food Drive - Mon 9-11am. *Murr Com Food Bank.*
- C. Slide4 REAL Tues - Tues 7pm. Mary Ives.

II. Slide5 **Intro:** *World Changers*

- A. Reports of *a whole house full of Gentiles* getting saved, made it down to headquarters in Jerusalem. (i.e. Cornelius & his household)
 - 1. Ever found it difficult explaining something you believe *God told you to do?* Here Peter *retell's the story*, so let's just hear it again from him.
- B. Then, Reports of a large group of *Gk speaking Non-Jews* coming to faith up north.

III. Slide6a **PETER'S REPORT (1-18)**

- A. One thing this teaches us is...when God is doing a *new thing*...**how to respond?**
 - 1. Listen (get facts...*not hearsay*), sit quiet, test & hold fast.
 - a) 1 Thes.5:21 **Test all things; hold fast what is good.**
- B. Slide6b Note Peters Trinitarian backup: (15,16,17)
 - 1. HS came on them, just like us.
 - 2. Jesus said that John baptized w/water, but you should be baptize w/HS.
 - 3. God gave the gentiles the same gift. [HS fell, Jesus said, Father gave]
- C. Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life - this was a grace bigger than any of them could've imagined!

IV. Slide7 **BARNABAS' REPORT (19-30)**

- A. 2 different churches play the primary role. [mother-church, daughter-church. Jewish-church, Gentile-church]
 - 1. 1st in Jerusalem led by the apostles comprised mainly of Jewish bel's.
 - 2. 2nd church in Antioch, established by Hellenist (Greek speaking Jews), who had to flee Jerusalem after the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 8:4).

B. **Antioch** (Syria) – 300 miles N of Jerusalem, on Med coast.

1. 3rd largest city in Roman Empire (after Rome & Alexandria).
2. Became home of many Jews during the Diaspora (dispersion).
3. They estimated 500,000 in Antioch at this time. 25,000 were **Jews**, no attempt yet to reach 475,000 **Gentiles**. (till verse 20)

C.(20) They **share their faith** (20), they are **grace-filled** (23), & they are **generous** (29).

1. What a **great definition** for any who call themselves **Christian**.

D. The **Antioch church** becomes the great beachhead for launching the mission to the **Gentiles**. [**Paul** adopts this church as his spiritual home]

E.(22,23) **Don't you love to hear what God is doing in other churches?**

1. I guess it always looks different, **but** look at his assessment (23)...

a) He witnessed **the Grace of God** there. He was **happy** for them. He encouraged them all (as was his name, & nature). **And** told them **w/purpose of heart they should continue**. (which means: **he encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts**)

F.(24) **Barnabas** - Not because of **what** he did, **but** **who** he was.

1. A man of character, **all from within**. The source of character, **all of grace**.

G. **Slide8a** (26) **Christian** - Suffix *ian* = *belonging to, coming from, being involved in, or being like something*. [Californian]

H. **Why not by His personal name, Jesus-ians?** (title/Christ) *Follower of Jesus*.

1. He desires not just **pardoned criminals**, **but** **privileged children**.

I. **Slide8b** Names so far have been: **Believers** (cuz **Faith** is our foundation). **Children** (Our relationship w/God thru faith. **Disciples** (**learners**, teachable, under instruction). **Saints** (**Separation** from uncleanness & ordinary life **to** God). **Servants** (**His possession**, His servants). **Faithful** (**Reliance** on God). **Brethren** (One Father, common life, common interest, common love). **Friends** (**Friend of God** - 1 man called this in OT/Abraham, now applied to all Christians). **Beloved** (special **personal affection**). **Heirs** (includes **possession** of all Jesus owns is ours). **His Own** (special **possession** by God, **protection** by God, **affection** from God). **Christians** (3x's in NT – some say used in derision, **others say** divinely given by God).

1. If you were asked *are you a Christian* could you answer... *I am a believer in Christ, a child of God, a disciple learning of Christ. A saint consecrated to God, a servant working for Christ. I am faithful to God, one of the brethren & lover of the brethren. One of God's friends, his beloved, His heir, His very own.*

J. (26) **Christian** - **Alexander the Great** once learned that in his army was a *namesake*, another *Alexander*, who was a notorious coward. Alexander the Great, who conquered the world when he was just 23, called the soldier before him and said, *Is your name Alexander and are you named for me?* The trembling coward said, *yes, sir. My name is Alexander and I was named for you.* The great general said, *Then either be brave or change your name!*

Fortunately, Christ does not say that to us, but he does exhort us to *be who we are - to live out our calling and faithful, obedient service.*

V. Slide9 7 Quick LESSONS

A. (19) **Expect Suffering** - *because of the persecution* (from Acts 8)

1. Jesus is better than...wealth...ease...health.
2. God doesn't just **allow** suffering, but **ordains** it among his people.
3. It's why there is 59 Psalms of Lament. A melody of a plea for *justice*, and always followed w/an assertion of God's ability to **deliver**. It's a song singing, *God, what will You do?*

B. (20) **God Uses Ordinary People** - *some of them*, just *some people*.

1. Just be *Jesus & bible saturated*. These are the 1st Lay Foreign Missionaries.

C. (21) **God is w/you** - *the hand of the Lord was w/them* [in guidance & power]

D. (23) **Not great gifts but Great Grace!** - *when he came he saw the grace of God*

E. (25) **Recruit** others to go with you - *so Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch.* [he knew this was bigger than himself]

1. Some people **oppose** things happening *critics from legalist party*

2. Some people **make** things happen *Peter*

3. Some people **hear** that things happen *Jerusalem Church*

4. ***Some people help other people** make things happen *Barnabus*

F. (26) **Share your faith & then disciple them** - *for a whole year they met w/the church & taught a great many people.*

G. (29) **Be Generous** - *so the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief.*

1. Notice that the Christians in Antioch **didn't** say to themselves, *How are we going to survive?*, **but instead** asked, *How can we help those who will be in a worse position than ourselves?*

a) ***This week** we heard from *Jaya*, our Nepalese pastor/friend, *our Rohingya friends need food badly!* We sent \$5000 of relief to them immediately.

2. I believe vs.29 is why Luke puts this story in here. **To show** that the Gentile Christians in Antioch **participated** in the *famine relief effort*. [They were **generous givers**]

3. They **shared their faith**, they were **grace-filled** & they were **generous**.

a) **A church well taught** is a church that **lives well, works well, gives well**.

H. Remember Saints, **we've been called to change** the world, **not fix** it!