

LIVING TRUTH

MULTIPLY

Acts 11

MESSAGE GUIDE

MESSAGE GUIDE

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on this message given by Brett McBride

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion.

Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not.

At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Brett's message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

Acts II – Multiply

PART 1 – MULTIPLY *Acts 8*

1. Today we will look at:
The P _____ of ____ and...
The _____ of ____

2. What had happened to the church?

3. Who was the main protagonist against the Church?

4. What was so significant about this time?

5. In some respects: Christ was building His Church
and the Apostles were along for the ride.

6. Read Acts 8:4-8
What are the most significant words?

7. Ask yourself these 3 questions:
 - a. Where is the Gospel moving in power?
 - b. What is the effect of the Gospel?
 - c. Who is God using for the spread of His Kingdom?

8. There is no mention of any complaining or moaning.
They accepted the scattering, they embraced the scattering,
They rejoiced in the scattering, they trusted God in the
scattering, they **USED** the scattering for His Glory!

Final Thoughts

There was no manual given to the Apostle as to
what they were building: only how it was to spread:
Only a Great Command and a Great Commission.
Abide in Me. My love will abide in you.
Go and make disciples!

Acts II – Multiply

PART 2 – SIMPLY AMAZING

Acts 9:1-28

1. Today from Acts we are going to look at 3 things:

- i. Amazing H _ _ _ _
- ii. Amazing G _ _ _ _
- iii. Amazing C _ _ _ _ _

2. 1. Amazing Hate: Read and consider Acts 9:1-2

3. What IS a TERRORIST?

4. 2. Amazing Grace: Read and consider Acts 9:3-8

5. What does Jesus do when confronting this terrorist Saul?

6. Read and consider 1 Timothy 1

7. 3. Amazing Change: Read and consider Acts 9:10-16

8. Read and consider Acts 9:20-23

9. What led to Saul's change?

10. Does Jesus still do this today?

Final Thoughts

Hate will blind you to the humanity of others.
I hardens you towards God
because God is Love.

Acts II – Multiply

PART 3 – SEEING BEYOND THE SURFACE

Acts 11:19 - 26

1. Today we will look at:

- 1. **The Expansion of the Gospel**
- 2. **The Encouragement of Barnabas**

2. **1. The Expansion of the Gospel**

Please read and consider Acts 11:19-26

3. What was the first large city to be targeted?

4. What was common to all of them?

Read and consider Acts 11:21

5. However: read and consider Acts 1:8

6. **2. The Encouragement of Barnabas**

Read and consider Acts 11:22-26

7. What are the 4 things that Barnabas wanted to ensure was evident in the lives of the new believers?

Final Thoughts

In our fast moving world with mega-churches and mass evangelism, our churches need to be re-acquainted with the spirit, discipline and practice of Barnabas
The activities of Paul [and others] helped the church to grow; but it was the activities of Barnabas that helped to keep and nurture the new harvest of souls.

Let's look at Jesus' method for spreading the Gospel
Acts 1-7: The Gospel fills Jerusalem – predominantly through the Apostles.

Acts 8: The Gospel spreads through a Samaritan city.

Acts 9: A terrorist [Saul] is set apart for a future ministry amongst the Gentiles.

Acts 11: Into the city of Antioch

Acts II – Multiply

PART 4 – THE WAITING ROOM

Acts 13:1 - 3

- 1. Today we will look at:
 - 1. The Calling of a Missionary
 - 2. The Cadence of a Missionary
 - 3. The Confidence of a Missionary

1. The Calling of a Missionary

Read and consider Acts 13:1-3

- 2. To get a better insight into Pauls calling read and consider Acts 26:16-18. What are the 4 affirmative statement made by God?

- 3. What kind of preparation did Paul and Barnabas make?

- 4. What does it mean to be ‘set apart’ for the Spirit’s work?

- 5. 2. The Cadence of a Missionary: We live in a fast track society, but the Spirit prepares a person for ministry in a slow cooker.

- 6. **There may be a waiting period from the vision to its fulfillment, and we need to be in cadence with God as to when it’s time!**

- 7. **3. The Confidence of a Missionary**

- 8. Will it be easy? Read and consider 2 Corinthians 11:24-28

- 9. **Your calling will be tested and tried—but you can rest assured that God gas spoken and confirmed it through His body, the church.**

Final Thoughts

Maybe God has given you a vision but you are in His waiting room and it has felt like a long time. May we suggest that you continue to wait. He is preparing you in the waiting room.

Acts II – Multiply

PART 5 – GRACE IN CONFLICT

Acts 15:1-23

- 1. As the church expanded, the process began to throw up some questions that needed to be answered; such as ‘what is cultural and what is covenant in our Christianity?’

So today we will look at 3 things:

1. The Debated Question

2. The Declaration of God

3. The Disputable Matters

Please read and consider Acts 15:1-23

- 2. **1. The Debated Question**
We do need to honestly consider what the Bible actually says in Acts 15 NIV v.1-5

- 3. Conflict is something that we need to try to avoid, but it is almost inevitable, That being said Acts 15 helps us to understand how, when conflict is unavoidable, are we to enter into conflict?

- 4. Acts 15:6 says that the apostles and elders met to consider the question and...

- 5. **3. The Disputable Matters**
Please read and consider Acts 15:19-21

Final Thoughts

This teaches us that discussion and debate is OK as long as it is entered into respectfully, and with grace.

And remember: [Also from Acts 15]

It is by grace we are saved,
through faith in our Lord Jesus.

Salvation is by His work –
then begins the process of Him sanctifying us,

LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

Acts II – Multiply

PART 1 – MULTIPLY

Acts 8

1. Today we will look at:
The Persecution of Man and...
The Power Of God
2. The Church was persecuted and scattered.
3. Saul [who became Paul] began to destroy the church.
Driven by religious ideologue, he thought he was serving God, but he began to work against the very God he was trying so hard to serve.
4. **This marks a key shift in the book of Acts.**
 - The expansion of the church among the gentiles.
 - The reshaping of the Apostles understanding of who the Gospel is for.
 - Jerusalem as not the only epicenter of the church.
5. **In some respects: Christ was building His Church and the Apostles were along for the ride.**
6. **Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went, v.4**

They were forcibly displaced from their homes by a terrorist movement, so what did they do?

7. As they endured the scattering – being displaced from their own homes – they **‘preached the word wherever they went’**.

And God’s Power was manifest in that preaching. Read and consider Acts 8:4-8.

8. When God scatters us; when He uplifts us from our comfortable place, how do we react, how do we respond?

Go to Final Thoughts.

Acts II – Multiply

PART 2 – SIMPLY AMAZING

Acts 9:1-28

1. i. Amazing Hate
ii. Amazing Grace
iii. Amazing Change
2. Saul was not just opposed to the Lord’s disciples, his hatred against them was venomous. Read and consider Acts 8:1, Acts 8:3, Acts 9:1, Acts 26:11

In modern day definition Saul was a **TERRORIST!**

3. A ‘terrorist? A person who uses violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, especially for political purposes.
Yes—Saul was a terrorist!

4. **Saul, within a mile of his mission to ‘savagely hunt down Christians, is met by Jesus. What amazing grace!**

5. Jesus does not destroy him or insult him,
He simply asks Saul a penetrating question.
What is that question?

“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

And then He reveals who He is!

Imagine how Saul/Paul feels – in the depths of his repentance – to discover that he thought he was serving God, but in fact his hatred had another source,

6. Especially consider 1 Timothy 1:13 & 14

7. Ananias displays astonishing trust and obedience to God in obeying His command to go and lay hands on this terrorist!

Notice that the first thing Paul did was to get baptized,
This is a lesson to all who have not yet been baptized.

8. Look at the AMAZING CHANGE in Paul
The one who came to **persecute** is now **proclaiming!**
The one who had come to **hunt** the church is now being **hunted**.

9. **Recognition** of his sin,
Repentance and turning to Christ.
Renewal of the Holy Spirit.

10. As you recognize your sin, and repent and turn to Christ,
He will renew you with His life.

Go to Final Thoughts.

Acts II – Multiply

PART 3 – SEEING BEYOND THE SURFACE

Acts 11:19-26

1. -
2. The strategy of taking the gospel to large cities was first used here. From the cities the Word of God would spread to the surrounding countryside.
3. Antioch: Third largest city in the Roman Empire.
Estimated population 500,000, Antioch was known for its lax morals and cultish practices.

They did not choose an easy place.

4. It was the Lord’s hand that was with them causing a great number of people to believe.

**HE builds HIS church – we get to join Him in HIS work!
We don’t do this FOR Him – we do this WITH Him!**

It is out of our union with Christ that we are led into the Antioch’s of the world

5. It is something for us to prayerfully consider that we must realize that the world has come to Toronto. The mission field is here with us now!
6. Barnabas was a great encourager, and his work highlights for us the *Importance of discipleship*.

7. Barnabas wanted to ensure that the faith of the new believer was:
 1. rooted in the Truth of God's Word,
 2. translating into a living confidence and experience of Christ.
 3. That they're encouraged to 'go on' = and persevere in community.
 4. That their faith is exemplified by joining Christ in His care for others and His concern for the poor and vulnerable

Go to Final Thoughts.

Acts II – Multiply

PART 4 – THE WAITING ROOM

Acts 13:1-3

1. Notice that the call was specific, uncontested, and acted upon immediately.
2.
 1. I have appointed you [v.16]
 2. I will show you [v.16]
 3. I will rescue you [v.17]
 4. I am sending you [v.17]
3. They spent an entire year at the church in Antioch and their main activity was not attending missions training sessions, it was time spent in prayer, continually seeking the will of God. The missionary endeavor of a church begins on our knees seeking God's instructions

Oh how few find time for prayer!
 There is time for everything else,
 Time to sleep, time to eat,
 time to read the newspaper and the novel, time to visit friends,
 time for everything else under the sun –
 but no time for prayer, the most important of all things,
 the one great essential!

Oswald Smith

4. What does it mean to be 'set apart' for the Spirit's work?
 - A singular focus.
 - Sent with a purpose.
 - Supported by a sending church,
5. There is a danger today for young people: They get a vision. Get a website. Get a strategic plan and start running...they don't wait for the confirmation of the body!
6. The right thing, at the wrong time, is still the wrong thing!
7. When God has called you and it has been confirmed by the Church, then you can step out with confidence that what HE has called you to, HE will do. He will be the power and source of all the resources you need.
8. You may be called, and confirmed, and enter into ministry with confidence, but that doesn't mean there won't be any challenges.

Go to Final Thoughts.

Acts II – Multiply

PART 5 – GRACE IN CONFLICT

Acts 15:1-23

1. Move on to question 2
2. When we first put our faith in Jesus we must acknowledge that our pre-existing beliefs and practices are carried with us into our newfound relationship with God.

Depending on your tradition, you may have cultural practices in your Christianity that are not in the Bible – they are traditions passed down through the ages.

This caused conflict back then, as do similar things cause conflict today as we create unspoken rules that are meant to be followed,

3. We are to have GRACE in conflict!
4. and...2. The Declaration of God
Please read carefully Acts 15:7-11
5. This was the response that the apostles and elders came to after prayerful deliberation.

Go to Final Thoughts.