



## SERMON NOTES: THE CHURCH BEYOND 4: BEYOND EXPECTATIONS (10/4/16)

### SCRIPTURE

*Acts 2:41-47*

*Acts 11:19-30*

*Acts 13:1-3*

### KEY POINTS

- + At this time (Acts 11), the church in Jerusalem, beginning with the disciples, has grown to thousands, almost exclusively Jewish. Apostles are beginning to go out, and also to be persecuted.
- + While Jerusalem was built around the temple and the worship of the one true God, Antioch was built around the worship of every god possible; a multi-cultural place of deep immorality. It's in this place that God builds a church that people could never have planned—God's heart is that ALL would hear and know Him.
- + Key markers of the church in Antioch:
  - + People coming to faith who wouldn't have in Jerusalem; the church goes beyond its Jewish boundaries.
  - + Open yet holy—grace shown to all without sacrificing truth.
  - + Barnabas fans the flames of potential and Antioch becomes a place that develops/trains people and sends them out (11:26)
  - + The church is totally understanding of the outward call that God has for it.
- + God plants his church and places his people in messy places, as part of His answer to the messiness; commissioned to teach, encourage and build up. Each of us is called to be a messenger of God's love for all, and a servant of what we know of God, no matter how much or little.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + How confident are you about the survival of the Christian church in Melbourne, or the West in general? What about other parts of the world? How does this week's teaching challenge or affirm your perspectives?
- + Following on from this, what do you see as your role or your call in God's purposes for the church? Do you personally feel equipped to take up the outward call? How are you making yourself open to the Holy Spirit's encouragement in this?
- + **What stuck out to you from the teaching?** Did God remind you of something, or reveal something new? Did the Spirit minister to you?
- + **Were any questions raised for you?** Did you get stuck on any scriptures or points? Anything you need clarity on?
- + **Where do we see Jesus Christ in this teaching?** Jesus is at the centre of everything in the Scriptures. It follows that he is at the centre of everything we understand about church, faith and the Kingdom. What in the teaching has helped you see more of Jesus and the cross, or moved you to love him more?
- + **How can you personally apply this teaching?** Identify and commit to something you sense the Spirit is leading you to do in obedient response. Make it actionable and personal. What is in place to help you stay accountable to this?
- + **What/with whom can you share from here?** Who in your life needs to know the truth you've discovered? How can you share it with them?