

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Pray Go 2020 - Part 2

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Introduction

As we settle into a new stage 4 lockdown in Melbourne, we are challenged to lift our eyes and envision what the church of the future could be like. We have all faced significant change and necessary adaption over the last few months, yet as we look at the example of the early church in Antioch, we see what our future church needs to look like. We are called to truly reflect Jesus, and to be obedient to his calling on our lives.

Read

Acts 11:19-30

Discuss

1. Read Acts 11:19. Throughout history, some of the most significant times that the gospel has spread have been when believers were under persecution. Why do you think this is the case? How do you honestly feel about being personally persecuted for the advancement of the gospel?
2. Read verses 20-21. What can we learn from these disciples? Why do you think their work was so impacting? Would this work in your context today?
3. Read 22-24. What traits were evident in the life of Barnabas? Would others say that you have any of these traits? Why / why not? What changes might you need to make for this to be true for you? How did God use Barnabas in this situation?
4. The disciples focused on promoting "Only Jesus." How might this be counter cultural today (even within church circles)? What can we do to ensure Jesus is our only message?

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5. Read 25-26. Barnabas went and found Paul and together they discipled the believers. What can we learn from this?
6. The disciples were first called “Christians” as a slur because they were like Jesus. How can we too live a life that enables others to see Jesus first and foremost when they see us?
7. Read verse 27. The disciples were led by the Spirit as to where to focus their resources and efforts. Are you Spirit-led in this? How?

Respond

The future church can learn a lot from the early church about the mission of God in the hands of ordinary people. We all have a part to play in shaping the church to come, but it must start with us taking personal responsibility. If the church of the future is to reflect the biblical traits we see in the church at Antioch, what is one area of your life you can focus on this week towards people seeing Jesus when they look at you? Who can you share your faith with this week? What is one step of obedience that God is calling you to take right now?