



Good News for All People

Riots & Revival

We are given front row seats to observe the growth of the Jesus story.

Acts 11:19-21 (NIV)

¹⁹ Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. ²⁰ Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

I. The Expanding Church

Acts 13:49-52 (NIV)

⁴⁹ The word of the Lord spread through the whole region. ⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the God-fearing women of high standing and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. ⁵¹ So they shook the dust from their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. ⁵² And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

- A. God's Word was presented
- B. Some would accept the truth
- C. Some would be jealous and cause problems
- D. Supernatural/miraculous involvement of God

II. In Acts we meet the communities of faith that fill our New Testament---

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 (NIV)

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² **To the church of God in Corinth**, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy,

Galatians 1:1-5 (NIV)

¹ Paul, an apostle--sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead-- ² and all the brothers with me, **To the churches in Galatia:**

Ephesians 1:1-3 (NIV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, **To the saints in Ephesus**, the faithful in Christ Jesus: ² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 21:24 (NIV)

²⁴ They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

III. The Price of Awakening

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 (NIV)

²³ Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

IV. The Big Picture

A. God, a plan for his people

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)

⁴ But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

Psalms 2:1-6 (NIV)

¹ Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? ² The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One. ³ "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters." ⁴ The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. ⁵ Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath, saying, ⁶ "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

B. Jesus, the ultimate expression of God's love for us **Why?** His Redemptive work ---the cross

1. Peace

Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; **the punishment that brought us peace was upon him**, and by his wounds we are healed.

2. Health

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

3. Righteous

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin (offering) for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. Brought near to God

Ephesians 2:13 (NIV)

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

5. Justified

Romans 5:9 (NIV)

⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

6. God's Love

John 3:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we rejoice today in your great love for us. You have called us out of darkness into the Kingdom of your Son. You have forgiven our sins, made complete provision for our lives and given us a purpose. There is no one like you. Today we lift our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God. May the name of Jesus be lifted up throughout the earth. We pray in His name, amen.

Days of Fasting

Almighty God you set up leaders and remove them. You watch over the course of nations. We come to ask for mercy for our nation. We have been uniquely blessed. We have experienced abundance, peace and prosperity but we have turned our backs on You. We have been wrong, forgive us. Awaken your people in this season. Send Your Spirit among us to stir our hearts. No one can stand before your anger, be merciful to us because of Your great mercy. May the praises of God once again rise from Your people in this land. In Jesus' name, amen.