

Acts 11:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

Analysis

Some believers from Cyprus and Cyrene 'spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus' in Antioch. These unnamed believers pioneered Gentile evangelism, likely emboldened by Peter's Caesarean mission. Their message centered on 'the Lord Jesus' - emphasizing both Jesus' identity as Lord and Savior. Reformed theology celebrates how ordinary believers (not apostles) initiated the Gentile mission in Antioch. God uses whom He wills to accomplish His purposes, not merely prominent leaders but also unnamed faithful witnesses.

Historical Context

Antioch was the Roman Empire's third-largest city with a diverse, cosmopolitan population. That Cypriot and Cyrenian believers preached to Gentiles there circa AD 40-42 established Antioch as the first predominantly Gentile church, later becoming Paul's missionary base.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God use ordinary, unnamed believers to accomplish extraordinary purposes?
2. What enabled these believers to cross cultural barriers to preach to Gentiles?
3. Why is proclaiming Jesus as both Lord and Savior essential to gospel preaching?

Interlinear Text

ἦσαν δέ τινες ἔξ αὐτῶν ἄνδρες Κύπριοι καὶ
were And some of them men of Cyprus and
G2258 G1161 G5100 G1537 G846 G435 G2953 G2532

Κυρηναῖοι οἵτινες εἰσελθόντες εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν ἐλάλουν
Cyrene which when they were come to Antioch spake
G2956 G3748 G1525 G1519 G490 G2980

πρὸς τοὺς Ἑλληνιστάς εὐαγγελιζόμενοι τὸν κύριον
unto the Grecians preaching the Lord
G4314 G1675 G2097 G3588 G2962

Ἰησοῦν

Jesus
G2424

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:1 (Parallel theme): Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

Matthew 27:32 (Parallel theme): And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

Acts 6:9 (Parallel theme): Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

Acts 2:10 (Parallel theme): Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

Ephesians 3:8 (Parallel theme): Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

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