

“Considerable Numbers”

Acts 11:19-26

Acts 11:24 says, “...and considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.” This was the result of the church being “scattered because of the persecution that occurred in connection with Stephen preaching the Lord Jesus” (11:19-20). How, exactly did this happen? What were the ingredients that contributed to considerable numbers being brought to the Lord? Can this still happen today?

- I. The HAND OF GOD WAS UPON THOSE WHO PROCLAIMED JESUS (vv. 20-21a) (cf. John 12:32)
 - A. The EARLY CHURCH proclaimed Jesus (cf. Acts 5:42)
 - B. The TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY CHURCH must proclaim Jesus (cf. Acts 10:39-40)

- II. A CONVERSION TO GOD WAS MADE BY THOSE WHO RECEIVED JESUS (v. 21b)
 - A. They EXERCISED FAITH in their conversion (v. 21b)
 - B. They EXHIBITED REPENTANCE in their conversion (21c)

- III. The MESSAGE OF GOD WAS SPREAD THROUGH THOSE WHO OBEYED JESUS (v. 22a)
(notice two things with regard to this message spreading:)
 - A. The PROCESS by which the message is spread.
 1. People are BROUGHT TO THE “WORD” (SAVIOR) OF THE LORD (v. 24b)
 2. People are TAUGHT THE “WORD” (SCRIPTURE) OF THE LORD (v. 26b)
 - B. The PURPOSE for which the message is spread.
 1. With the gospel message comes SALVATION (v. 21)
 2. With the gospel message comes ENCOURAGEMENT (vv. 22b)
 3. With the gospel message comes GRACE (v. 23a)
 4. With the gospel message comes JOY (v. 23b)
 5. With the gospel message comes COMMITMENT (v. 23d)

How shall we see “considerable numbers” brought to the Lord today?

1. With the HAND OF GOD UPON THE PREACHERS
2. With the MESSAGE OF GOD SPREAD THROUGH THE CHURCHES
3. With the CONVERSION OF LOST PEOPLE TO CHRIST