

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | No Other Name

July 6, 2025 | “First Called Christians” | Acts 11:19–30

Four Hallmarks of the Christian Life—Then and Now:

1) _____ (11:19–21)

2) _____ (11:22–24)

3) _____ (11:25–26)

4) _____ in ministries of mercy (11:27–30)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 11:19–30 and review the four hallmarks of a Christian life above. Which of these is most prominent in your Christian community? Which is least prominent? Explain the importance of both in the first-century world and the twenty-first century.

Explain the importance of evangelism in the Christian church. How does sharing the gospel factor into the disciple-making process? What all does Jesus’s command to “Go make disciples” (Matt 28:19-20) encompass? Is it possible to make disciples without also making converts?

GET PERSONAL

Read Hebrews 3:13 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11. Do you encourage or exhort fellow believers as a daily discipline? Are you naturally an encourager or not? What are some ways that you can grow in this area? When was the last time someone’s encouragement helped you persevere in faith? How can you do the same for others?

Why are ministries of mercy an integral part of the Christian faith? How has Christianity changed the world through ministries of mercy? In what ways have you blessed the church or those outside the church through acts of mercy?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Barnabas mentored Saul. What is remarkable and encouraging about Barnabas mentoring Saul? Who are you mentoring right now? Who is mentoring you? How might you invest time and attention in helping someone else grow spiritually? What qualities are important in a mentor/mentee relationship? How can a church facilitate relationships like this?

When Barnabas saw God working in Antioch, he rejoiced! When was the last time you rejoiced in what God was doing in your life or in the life of your church? Is that a daily discipline for you? Why or why not? Take a moment right now to rejoice in God’s work in your life. Commit to starting your day every day this week with a time of rejoicing.

ADVANCED QUESTION

The believers were first called “Christians” in Antioch. What does the name “Christian” mean? How has this term been diluted or misunderstood in our modern world? Are you a Christian in the truest sense of that word? In what ways? How can you be sure?