

When God's Hand is Upon a Church

BOLD [Community]

Pastor Sam Tse

June 14, 2026

Acts 11:19-30

BIG IDEA:

We don't find the perfect church – we become the church God is forming when His hand is upon us.

KEY VERSE:

21 *"The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."*

BACKGROUND:

We've seen throughout the last few chapters that Luke emphasizes God's inclusive family. God is breaking down racial, cultural, and social barriers to bring all people into Christ. The hostility that once divided us has been replaced by the peace of God. Through Christ, broken people are being reconciled to God and one another. As we come to Acts 11, we see Christ continuing to build His church and we are the living stones He is using to do it.

QUESTION:

What does a church look like when God's hand is upon it?

EVIDENCE #1:

WE SHARE CHRIST _____.(vv.19-21)

"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." – (v.20)

Reflection Question:

Who is God compelling you to move out of your comfort zone for?

One of the truest marks of spiritual maturity is learning to recognize and celebrate what the grace of God is doing in other people.

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EVIDENCE #2:

WE _____ IN CHRIST TOGETHER. (vv.22-26)

"...for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people." (v.26b)

Strong churches do not revolve around one person – how are you making disciples or being disciplined?

EVIDENCE #3:

WE SHOW CHRIST'S LOVE _____. (vv.27-30)

"29 The disciples, as each one was able, decided to provide help for the brothers and sisters living in Judea." (v.29)

The church isn't built on equal gifts—it's built on shared grace.

TAKEAWAYS

SO WHAT?

- REFLECT on your posture here at church. Do we have that audience mentality or one of surrender to How God wants to shape us in and through this community?

NOW WHAT?

- COMMIT to a concrete step of action this week. Start a spiritual conversation this week, join a group and get out of isolation or sacrificially meet a need.

We are not called to find a church with God's hand on it. We are called to BE a church under God's hand.