

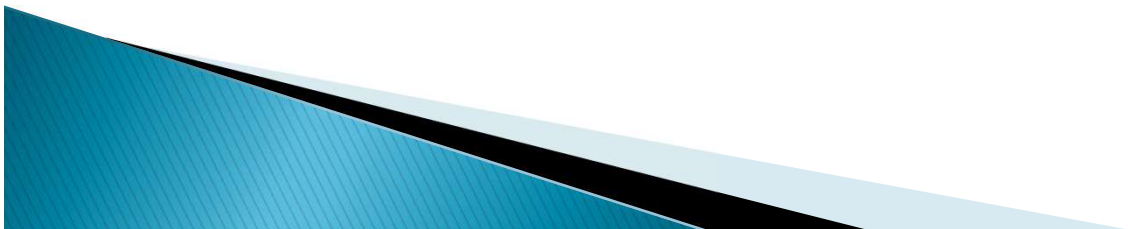
Firsts in Acts 11

- ▶ A church sent a preacher (previously, the apostles in Jerusalem sent Peter and John to Samaria)
- ▶ Disciples called Christians
- ▶ Elders
- ▶ Relief sent to elders of other churches



Acts 11:27–30

- ▶ A famine: secular history, per Josephus: famine during reign of Cuspius Fadus and Tiberius Alexander
 - Fadus was Herod's successor
 - Josephus speaks of Fadus buying corn from Egypt to relieve Jews in Judea
 - Herod died 44 AD
 - If secular history is correct, then we would have the events of 11:27–30 (the famine) occurring after 12:1–23 (Herod's death)



Acts 11:27–30

- ▶ Who contributed?
- ▶ Who were the recipients?
- ▶ Would saints be the only ones affected by a famine?
- ▶ Was the sending of relief a temporary setup or a permanent program?
- ▶ What was the role of Paul and Barnabas?
- ▶ Were there multiple churches in Judea?



Bible Approach to Caring for Needy Saints

- ▶ Christians taking care of own family members
 - 1 Timothy 5
- ▶ A church taking care of its own members
 - Acts 2, 4, 6
- ▶ When a church had members in need beyond its ability, then a church or churches sent to the needy church so that the needy church could relieve its own
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1–3




Caring for Needy Saints

- ▶ The church relieving needy saints:
 - Acts 2:44–45
 - Acts 4:34–35
 - Acts 6:1–4
 - Romans 15:25–31
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1–3
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1–14
 - 2 Corinthians 9:1–14
 - 1 Timothy 5:16
- ▶ In each case
 - Who contributed?
 - Who was relieved?
 - Who administered the relief?



Acts 11:27–30

- ▶ Relief from saints for saints
 - “relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea” (v.29)
 - Consistent with pattern seen so far in Acts
 - Acts 2, 4, 6
 - ▶ Will not find in New Testament: the church providing relief for unbelievers
 - Does not deny the truth of James 1:27 regarding individual action
 - ▶ No sponsoring church here (Jerusalem they say)
 - Churches of Judea:
 - Acts 9:31, 32, 36
 - Gal 1:22/Acts 9:30 (this was prior to Acts 11)
 - ▶ A temporary arrangement specific to a need
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Each church doing its own work

- ▶ Sent out and/or supported preachers
 - Acts 11:22
 - Philippians 4:15–18
 - ▶ Cared for its own needy
 - Acts 4:32–35
 - ▶ Collected and sent out its own funds for relief of needy saints
 - 1 Corinthians 16:1–3
 - Acts 11:27–30
 - 2 Corinthians 8:4–6, 16–21
 - ▶ Came together for worship
 - Acts 20:7
 - 1 Corinthians 11:17–22, 14:1–40
 - ▶ Determined fellowship and carried out discipline
 - Acts 9:27
 - Acts 18:26–27
 - 1 Corinthians 5:1–13
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:6–7, 14–15
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