

ACTS 11:1-30

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⁴But Peter explained *it* to them in order from the beginning, saying: ⁵"I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. **PICTURE** ⁶When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. ⁷And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸But I said, 'Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.' ⁹But the voice answered me again from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.' ¹⁰Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. **PICTURE** ¹²Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, **PICTURE** who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, ¹⁴who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.' ¹⁵And as I began to speak, **PICTURE** the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷If therefore God gave them the same gift **PICTURE** as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

¹⁸When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

¹⁹Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, **MAP** preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. ²⁰But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

²²Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. ²³When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. ²⁴For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

²⁵Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. ²⁶And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

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BEING KNOWN AS CHRISTIANS

- Jesus' followers were first called His disciples.

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And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.

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....many tax collectors and sinners also sat together with Jesus and His disciples; for there were many, and they followed Him.

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The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

- Then they were known as being of the Way.

ACTS 9:2b

....so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

- Jesus had declared Himself to be the Way.

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"I am the way, the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- Their enemies did not speak well of the Way.

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But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples,...

23bthere arose a great commotion about the Way.

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And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

- Peter taught that if we suffer as a Christian, it is our honor and reason to praise the Lord.

1 PETER 4:16

Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. **NKJV**

(NLT) But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name!

(ASV)glorify God in this name.

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