

“Maturing in Faith in the Midst of Crisis” Acts 11:27-30

1. In Acts 11, the church in Jerusalem sends Barnabas to look for Saul (v. 25) and when Barnabas finds him in Saul’s hometown of Tarsus, he brings Saul to Antioch. And we read that they spend a year there teaching a considerable number of people. And we also see in verse 26 that followers of Christ were first called Christians in Antioch.

It’s at this time that some believers with the gift of prophecy come “down” from Jerusalem to Antioch. Antioch is actually north of Jerusalem but Jerusalem is on a much higher elevation.

What is the name of the “prophet” that we meet in verse 28?
What does this itinerant teacher prophesy (by the Spirit of God)?

We see that this occurred during the reign of Claudius. The historian Josephus reports that a famine actually did take place in 46 A.D.

2. Are believers exempt from imminent crises?
How does God mature us in our faith in the midst of trials and crises?
3. How do the believers in Antioch respond to their brothers and sisters in need in Jerusalem (v.29)?
What was the level of participation in this spirit of generosity?
What do you think this did for the relationship between the two churches?
4. Who’s in charge of delivering the Antioch church’s financial gift to the elders at Jerusalem?
5. Read Proverbs 11:24, 25; 19:17. What do these verses say on giving?

How could you grow in this spiritual discipline?

6. How can we see giving as a ministry and an expression of worship?
Giving isn’t to be seen as a duty but a great delight. Where do we see this attitude of open-handed generosity reflected in Romans 15:27?
7. What are ways we can see this pandemic as not just an inconvenience, but an opportunity to reach out with love and compassion?