

**Sermon Series: Life In His Name**  
**Sermon Title: "Life in His Church"**  
**Text: Acts 11: 19-26**

**Discussion Questions:**

We celebrate God's work through our partnership in Haiti today.

- What are some of the celebrations or times of remembrance or memorials that God instructed His people to build or observe in the Old Testament?
- What purpose do those fulfill in the life of a nation or family or church?

Do you have some examples of celebrations or times of remembrance that you or your family have instituted that have become significant in your life?

Do you believe that the Church (the universal, global Church - not our local church) is at the center of God's plan for reaching the world with His message of redemption?

- Why or why not?
- What about many people in our society today who prefer to be a Christian apart from participating in a local church – is that valid?

**Examination:**

Read Acts 11:19-26. How does this passage mark a turning point in the Book of Acts and the spread of the Gospel? (Hint: see verse 20.)

Sometimes even we don't think that the Gospel seems like such good news to our culture anymore. In verse 20, what kind of sense do you get about the way that believers thought about and communicated the message about Jesus to the people in Antioch? Does this verse point to something we lack?

What was the approach of the church leaders in Jerusalem toward this new movement in Antioch? Is this worth replicating today? What happened later in Antioch, and what are the implications for this kind of strategy? (See Acts 13:1-3, 14:26, 18:23)

Some Christians believe that every function of Christian ministry or outreach around the world should come from within the church and be organized and administered by a local church. How do you see that issue? What role do other Christian organizations – like non-profit ministries to the poor, for instance, currently play in that process? What role *should* they play?

2 Corinthians chapter 8 says: <sup>13</sup> Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. <sup>14</sup> At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, <sup>15</sup> as it is written: "The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little."

Are you challenged by the idea that God desires “equality” among believers in different parts of the world?

- What does that really mean?
- What kinds of things would we have to pursue to begin to make that a reality?

Reflect on chapter 8:9. What does this say to us about our posture toward the poor?

**Application:**

- Do you feel connected to what God is doing around the world?
- Are you aware of the issues that are facing churches and Christians in other parts of the world?
- How could we do more to connect you, here at King Street, with those issues, needs, and dynamics in a greater way? *(Let us know if you have some good answers to this question – please!)*