

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

*Intentional Pursuits,
Predictable Results*

John 17:20-23

Jesus Prays for All Believers

20"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Acts 11:18-26 (New International Version)

18When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

The Church in Antioch

19Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. 20Some 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. 21The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

22News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

25Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 13:1

1In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, October 21

Big Idea: The church of Jesus Christ should not be segregated because of three biblical reasons.

Key Verse: *John 17:20-21*

20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Opening Question: Describe a cross cultural experience that you had.

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders.

Read the passages.

Discussion Questions

1. This week's message was a break from the Change of Heart series, but it is so closely linked to last week's message on mercy. The "come as you are" mentality is especially relevant to the cross cultural experiences and racial reconciliation in America. Share an experience you had over the Cultural and Urban Awareness weekend.
2. Mark Deymaz argued that all churches should be multi-ethnic. How do you respond?
3. He showed that the New Testament was multi-ethnic by looking at three aspects: the prayer of Jesus in John 17; the description of Luke in the book of Acts; and the prescription of Paul in Ephesians.
 - a) List as many ethnicities as you can that were mentioned in the passages from Acts.
 - b) Why is it so important for us to know these ethnicities?
 - c) What would the church of Antioch had felt like to be in with such diverse ethnicity in its leadership?
 - d) What would you feel like if you worshipped in a church like that?
4. How multi-ethnic is your LIFE Community group?
5. How multi-ethnic do you want your LIFE Community group to be?
6. What is your LIFE Community group doing to be multi-ethnic?
7. In the next week, what attempts can your group make to become more multi-ethnic? (*Leaders can look at www.mosaix.info and look at the seven core commitments that they focus on to becoming and being multi-ethnic. This website is the organization that Mark Deymaz is involved in and his church is linked to.*) Interact with those core commitments as a group. Then go to prayer seeking for an answer from God as to how to move further along this road towards multi-ethnicity.)