

**St. Jerome Adult Bible Study**  
**The Acts of the Apostles**  
Study Questions<sup>1</sup> Chapters 11 - 16

1. Compare 11:1 – 18 with 10:9 – 46. Why does Luke take the time and space to tell the same story twice?
2. Of what importance is the gift of the Holy Spirit in Peter’s argument?
3. Why did God choose Peter as the first to go to the Gentiles? Would anyone else have been as successful in Caesarea and Jerusalem? Why or why not? (Hint: What do we know about Peter? – see previous notes)
4. How did the attitudes of the “circumcised brothers” change?
5. Antioch was the third largest city in the Roman Empire at this time. What might the Apostles feel as they hear the Gospel is taking root there (v.23)?

Luxury and the vices associated with the wanton pursuit of pleasure and idleness had made the Antioch of the first century vile and immoral, corrupt and idolatrous. It was the center of Greek culture but its social life was debased, sensual, and shocking. The temple of Daphne stood among laurel trees just five miles outside the city and included immoral worship in the name of religion.

Antioch on the Orontes was the administrative capital of the Roman province of Syria. Its name comes from Antiochus, a Syrian King and stood near the mouth of the river Orontes, 15 miles from the Mediterranean. It was called "on the Orontes" to distinguish it from 15 other Antiochs. Seleucia was the seaport there and was the sailing port for the missionary journeys of Paul the apostle. It has suffered repeatedly from earthquakes. Antioch was the third city of the empire in the first century, with a population of about half million, only Rome and Alexandria would surpass her in numbers. Strategically situated on the East and West routes of commerce, Antioch became a magnificent city, rich and luxurious, lovely and cosmopolitan. Its main street was four miles in length and lined with majestic mansions.

6. See Acts 4:36-37 and 9:26-27. What kind of person is Barnabas? Why would he want Saul in Antioch?
7. The Herod in chapter 12 is Herod Agrippa I, the grandson of Herod the Great and nephew of Herod Antipas (who beheaded John the Baptist). What kind of man was he? What do you make of his manner of death?
8. In vv. 12 – 18 St. Peter goes to the house of the mother of John Mark. What happened? What can we learn about John Mark?
9. We begin to see more of Paul now. Note the name change in 13:9. Why are names so important to God? Can you name other Biblical figures whose names were changed?
10. Paul and Barnabas speak boldly to the Jews in 13:46 – 47. What was the affect upon the Jews? The Gentiles?
11. The cure of the crippled man in 14:8 – 10 was St. Paul’s second miracle. What was the first? How are they different?
12. Chapter 15 describes the first Council of the Church. Why was it convened? What happened? Why was it important?

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<sup>1</sup> Questions courtesy of *The Serendipity Bible*® (NIV®), (Littleton, CO., Serendipity House, 1998)