

# THE LORD'S HAND—PART ONE

## ACTS 11:19-26a

*How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)*

BACKGROUND: Read Acts **fn 11:20, 21 and fn 11:22** first.

***WAS WITH THEM.*** A great explosion of the church came about, not by human wisdom or skill, but by the Lord's hand. (See ESV Study Bible, Acts 11:21 fn) The telling of the good news about Jesus Christ was led by anonymous Jewish believers who had been scattered by persecution. (Acts 11:19-21, fn 11:19-21, Zechariah 4:6, fn 4:6[2<sup>nd</sup>], Psalms 40:1-10, fn 40:6, Acts 13:6-11, Romans 8:6-14) *How do you know that the Lord's hand is with you?*

***SENT FOR BARNABAS.*** God's hand is God's power. Not only had God's grace shaped the first Gentile church, God's hand shaped Barnabas. (Acts 11:22-24, fn 11:22-26, Ephesians 4:1-3, fn 4:1, 2 Colossians 1:9-14, fn 1:9-14, Galatians 2:20) *What would it take for the Lord to shape your life in the way He shaped Barnabas?*

***LED TO TEAM DISCIPLESHIP.*** Even with tremendous success in promoting the good news, Barnabas recognized that help was needed. He traveled one hundred miles to Tarsus for Paul. "It is better to put ten men to work than to do the work of ten men." Dwight L. Moody (Acts 11:25, 26a, fn 11:26[2<sup>nd</sup>], Exodus 18:13-27, fn 18:13-26, II Timothy 2:1, 2, fn 2:2, Romans 15:14, Hebrews 5:11-14) *In your circle of needy friends, who would be blessed by participating in a Team Discipleship group? Would you lead that group?*

*Pray for one another's needs.*

*Who in your group needs your encouragement by phone or personal attention?*

