Sermon Discussion Guide:
Ministries of Mercy

Sunday, September 18, 2022
Scripture: **Acts 11:27–30**
Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

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OVERVIEW

Jesus is quoted as saying, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). And it is true – giving to others and serving others reflects the very character of God. In Acts 11:27-30 we read a short description of how the early church lived this out in the context of a famine. In considering this story in light of Jesus' words, we see that **The Gospel moves us to meet one another's needs from our abilities and for God's glory.**

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CORROBORATING TEXTS

John 6:35; John 7:37; John 15:12-13; 2 Corinthians 9:7; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Matthew 5:3,6; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:16; Galatians 6:2; Proverbs 19:17

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you feel the Church today is generally known for meeting one another's needs? Share some examples you are familiar with.

2. Read Acts 11:27-30 again and recap the story. How does this passage fit into the larger story of the early church? What is the prophet's message and what was the church's response?

3. **The Gospel moves us...** What is the gospel and how does it move us? Should we be motivated by duty or by love? (see Romans 12:13; John 15:12,13; Hebrews 13:16)

    a. As recipients of grace, we become practitioners of it. Discuss ways in which our expressions of grace reflect or mirror God's grace.

4. **...to meet one another's needs...** What are some ways we meet one another's needs? How has someone in the church met your needs? How do we identify needs?

5. **...from our abilities...** Giving of our finances comes to mind very quickly. What other abilities and resources do we have to offer? Do we ever develop abilities and resources specifically so we can meet someone else's needs? Should we? Think of some examples.

6. **...for God's Glory.** Doing good benefits others and makes us feel good—but that's not the ultimate goal. Reflect on what it means to glorify God through our good works (Matt 5:16).

Redeemer Fellowship