

# Jesus MOVEMENT



## SERMON NOTES

June 23, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Brian Bennett

Jesus Movement: “Presence over Preference”

[Acts 11]

### Jesus Movement: “Presence over Preference”

[Acts 11]

We can make a “god” out of our \_\_\_\_\_ and miss God’s \_\_\_\_\_

[Acts 11:1-18; Galatians 2:11-13]

- The overly \_\_\_\_\_ typically want \_\_\_\_\_ and don’t like \_\_\_\_\_.
- Issues are \_\_\_\_\_, but God’s will is \_\_\_\_\_.

The people God uses choose His \_\_\_\_\_ over their \_\_\_\_\_.

[Acts 11:19-26; Romans 8:14-17]

- God works \_\_\_\_\_ people according to His plans.
- What made them “Christian”?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ leading to life. (Acts 11:18)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Christ. (Acts 11:26)
  - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 11:15; 21)
  - \_\_\_\_\_ among the people of God. (Acts 11:22-24; 13:1-2).

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## Next Step Questions:

- Will you choose God's presence over your preferences?
- Will you embrace any changes God is leading in your life or the life of our church?
- Will you live as a "Christian" by: repenting regularly, following Christ's way, seeking His presence, and promoting unity among the people of God?

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## Pathway Group Discussion Questions:

*Note: 1, 9-10 are general questions asked at Pathway weekly.*

1. How is God at work in and around your life?
2. Pastor Brian said, “Our preferences can get in the way of God’s presence and plans”. Do you agree? Explain.
3. Read Acts 11:1-18. What were the issues they were criticizing and debating?
4. Are there any “gods” you have made from your preferences that might be “standing the way of God’s presence and plans” (Acts 11:17)?
5. In Acts 11:17-18 we see the words for belief (Greek “pistis”) and “repentance” (Greek “metanoia”). The depth of these words means to “place our lives in” and “to turn away from our ability”. How does our faith in Christ invite us to truly let go and trust Him with a new way of life?
6. Pathway’s goal for 2024-25 is: “digging deeper and building a bigger people in Christ”. How does this help focus us a church right now on Jesus and discipleship? What does that mean for this group? What kind of “changes” might happen as this unfolds?
7. Pastor Brian quoted Charles Swindoll and three lessons on change the early church demonstrated. See below and discuss their meaning for us:  
“Three lessons the early church learned:
  - Some changes are inevitable.
  - Any change requires adjustment.
  - Every change must be examined in light of Scripture.”(Charles Swindoll).
8. Read Acts 11:19-26. Discuss the closing points of the message and what it means to truly be used by God and be a Christian.
9. How did you answer the “next step questions” from the message?
10. How can we pray for you and support you this week?

Note for life group leaders: if you need additional support or resources due to the depth of the verses and topics covered don’t hesitate to reach out: [zorom@pathwayvb.com](mailto:zorom@pathwayvb.com)

[Visit the Pathway Church Calendar – Click Here](#)

# Jesus MOVEMENT



**June 9 – June 15, 2024**

## **FINANCIALS**

Weekly Tithe: \$31,134 down 15.9% to budget  
YTD Giving: \$874,843 down 4.2% to budget

## **CONNECT**

Total Worship Attendance: 1008  
Online: 111  
TWC Attendance Sunday: 506  
Kids Sunday: 108  
Students: 283

## **GROW**

Baptisms (YTD): 43  
Discipleship Groups: 197  
Salvations (YTD): 65

## **SERVE**

People Fed at Food Pantry: 56  
Weekly Volunteers: 77