

## Acts of Jesus, Lesson 23: A Good Name

**What's in a name?** Our series in the book of Acts and considering the first place where followers of Jesus were called Christians.

### 1. **Acts 11:19-26**

- **Christian:** One of the most misused and misunderstood names in History
- For several centuries now, this name has meant little more than a European or an American who is not Jewish.
- I think would serve us well to spend our time together this morning defining what a Christian really is.
- It means literally "those of the party of Christ" or even more literally "little Christs" --- meant to be derogatory but was no doubt an honor for the followers of Christ in Antioch.

### 2. **Fairly easy to define a word but what about a person? What constitutes a Christian person?**

- There are a number of ways we could come at this:
  1. Think of it as a label
    - What does a label on a package tell us? Ownership, contents, point of origin, point of destination.
      - Ownership: **I Cor. 6:19-20**
      - Contents: **Rom. 8:9, Gal. 4:6**
      - Point of Origin: **Eph. 5:8, Eph. 2:1, Jn. 5:24.**
      - Point of Destination: **Jn. 14:2-3**
    - But this destination is not for everyone who is called or who calls themselves "Christian".
  2. To be Christian you have to be born one:
    - Only way to get into a human family by blood is to be born into it.
    - Only way to get into the Christian family is by birth. **Jn. 3:3**
      - it involves 2 parents = Spirit of God **Jn. 3:5-6** Word of God **I Pet. 1:23**
- ✓ It is a fallacy (it makes no sense) to say, "I'm a born again Christian", that is redundant; because that's the only kind of Christians there are.
- ✓ For a person to say they're a Christian without being born again is a misuse of that term.
- ✓ Your must be born again to be Christian---You can be born once and be an American
- ✓ **You must be born twice to be a Christian.**
  3. This new birth results in a new nature:
    - When you are born to parents with a sinful nature you too have a sinful nature.
    - When you are born to holy parents (Spirit and Word of God) you receive their nature
    - **II Pet. 1:4**
    - This new nature is what's to blame for this group of followers in
    - Antioch being labeled "little Christ's"