

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Peter’s Vision”

Acts 10:9-29

Sermon Series Title: “Church Beginnings”

Sermon Series Summary: From now until around Easter, we will be in the book of Acts, covering chapters 1-12. After the Ascension of Jesus Christ, we see the NT church being born by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through this series, we see the church being built, the kingdom going forth, and the gospel being proclaimed.

Setting: The book of Acts is a transitional book between the resurrection of Jesus and the established local churches of the epistles. With Jesus’ call to the church in Acts 1, we see how the gospel spreads to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the end of the earth..

Summary: After Cornelius’ vision, he obeys and sends men to bring Peter to Caesarea. Meanwhile, Peter receives a vision of God calling unclean foods clean, pointing to how God will call unclean Gentiles clean. This passage shows us God’s heart and plan to save the world and our mission to bring the gospel to others.

Sermon Points:

1. The Message
2. The Mistake
3. The Meaning
4. The Mission

Opening Question

1. What do/would you do if you feel like God was telling you something through a vision or a feeling?

(Answers may vary.)

As God gave Cornelius a vision last week, we see God gives Peter a vision in our passage today. This vision will determine the course of redemptive history as God is calling unclean people clean.

Read Acts 10:9-29

Community Group Discussion Questions

2. What does Peter's vision show us about the fulfillment of the OT law in Christ?

(We see two things going on here through the vision. God tells Peter to eat unclean foods, going against the ceremonial/civil law we see in the Old Testament. God tells Peter that He has made those foods clean. Not only that, we see that this is a representation of unclean people in the Gentiles now being called clean because of the gospel.)

Jesus' fulfillment of the law now allows both these truths to become reality. Jesus fulfilled the ceremonial and civil law. He is the Most High Priest who offered Himself as the ultimate once-for-all sacrifice for sin, becoming the temple and fulfilling the ceremonial law for us. He is the King who protects and defends us, and through His work, He has established a spiritual kingdom here on earth. Because of Jesus' fulfillment of the law, there are no foods that are unclean for us.

In addition, Jesus' life, death, and resurrection dawns a new redemptive period in history, the inclusion of Gentiles. In the old covenant, you would enter the household of God by faith through the sacrificial system and circumcision. Now, we enter the household of God by faith through the sacrifice of the Son, who was "cut off" on the cross for our sins. Because of Christ's work, now Gentiles can be clean of their sins by faith.)

3. What are some ways we worship other people like Cornelius?

(Cornelius is mistaken when he thinks Peter is God himself. Because the vision told him to retrieve Peter, he thinks Peter is as powerful if not more powerful than the angel in his vision. Because he thinks this way, he falls down at Peter's feet and worships him.)

It's so easy for us to worship other people. When we envy others, we are worshipping them. Or at least, we worship what they have. Worship also includes fearing man's opinions. Whether we are seeking others' approval or fearing their disapproval, we are worshipping them. We may idolize other people when we see others' faith. We want to be as holy, mature, or gifted as them.)

4. What does this passage teach us about God's mission? How does it humble and move us?

Community Group Discussion Questions

(As we talked about this last week, we see that it's God's mission to save the world. He is now calling unclean Gentiles as clean. He has called us clean, because Jesus is the One who paid for our sins. We are the creeping thing on the great sheet. We are the ones excluded but now included. This should humble us because we did not earn our salvation. We did not find our way to the Lord, but instead, He found and called us. He saved us. He did all the work of salvation while we were enemies.

This grace should move us toward others. There are more unclean people in this world that need to hear the word of the gospel. They need Jesus. And just like Peter, we are the ones called to go and share this good news with them. We are beggars telling other beggars where to find food.)

Final Thoughts: *This vision is humbling, because it shows us that we are the unclean animals that are now clean by the work of Christ. He became unclean so we may become clean. He was exiled so that we may be brought into the people of God. Through the fulfillment of the Law in Christ's life, death, and resurrection, now we have life and freedom. That is the grace of God. And it's by that grace, we are moved to worship Him and share Christ with the world.*