

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.

"We are in our "Church Beginnings" sermon series, and through this series, we're going to see that we need to know where we come from to know who we are now and to know who we will become in the future."

Call: 1 Samuel 2:10

Text: Acts 10:9-29

Title: "Peter's Vision"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 22:2-3

Next Week's Text: Acts 10:34-48

Next Week's Title: "Cornelius' Salvation"

Future Calls: 2 Samuel 22:4, 5-7, 14-16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21-22, 23-25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 47-49, 50-51

Future Titles: "Peter's Report" (Acts 11:1-18); "The First Gentile Church" (Acts 11:19-30); "The First Apostolic Martyr" (Acts 12:1-5); "Peter's Rescue" (Acts 12:6-19); "Herod's Death" (Acts 12:20-25)

Fallen Condition Focus: There are unclean people who need salvation.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ is both the messenger and the message of salvation for unclean people.

Proposition: "Christ is both the messenger and the message of salvation for unclean sinners like us."

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.

## Reflective Questions:

1. What does Peter's vision show us about God's heart and our mission?
2. What are some ways we worship other people?

### I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

### II. The Message (vv. 9-23a)

- A. The next day- as it takes some time to go from Caesarea to Joppa, the Lord gives the vision to Peter then
- B. Peter prays on the flat housetop at the sixth hour (noon), possibly under a awning (with four posts- like the sheet descending)
- C. He's hungry but falls into a trance.
- D. Great sheet- also huge sail on a boat- is lowered by four corners upon the earth with clean and unclean animals (Leviticus 11).
- E. God tells Peter to rise, kill, and eat. This is against the ceremonial law of the OT and Jewish tradition, provoking Peter to immediately respond with refusal (John 13, Matthew 26). God repeats this command three times.
- F. While Peter ponders the meaning of the vision, Cornelius' men come to bring him to their leader. The Spirit confirms their visit and tells Peter to go with them.
- G. The men attest to Cornelius' character and testifies to his earlier vision.
- H. Peter invites them to be his guests, Gentiles in a Jewish home.

### III. The Mistake (vv. 23b-29)

- A. Peter goes with them, and brothers from Joppa accompany him. We see that it's six men (11:12) to give 7 witnesses for a trial/testimony.
- B. They enter Caesarea and Cornelius has been waiting for them with his relatives and loved ones. That's what you do when you have good news.
- C. Cornelius falls at Peter's feet and worships him. How do we worship, envy, and fear other people?
- D. Peter confirms his own humanity and corrects him.
- E. Peter confesses the shift in perspective after his vision.

### IV. The Meaning

- A. Four corners of the great sheet- four corners of the world (N, S, E, W)

- B. Can eat clean and unclean animals (pig, oyster, lobster, scallop)- ceremonial and civil law are no longer needed because they have been fulfilled in Christ
- C. Not only that, these animals are referring to people. God is calling all types of people, including Gentiles, clean.
- D. How is this possible?
  - 1. Jesus is the fulfillment of the ceremonial and civil law, by being our Most High Priest, our sacrificial Lamb, and our King.
    - 1. OT- sacrificial system and circumcision to be part of the people of God. Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice and ultimate circumcision, cut off on the cross.
  - 2. Jesus is One who became unclean so that all people may be clean. He was exiled so that we may be brought in.
  - 3. Jesus is both the messenger and the message.
  - 4. He is God Himself who deserves all glory, but instead of receiving worship, He received the humiliation of the cross for our salvation. That was His mission.

#### V. The Mission

- A. It was His mission to save us... to make the unclean clean.
- B. We are the unclean animals on the sheet.
- C. Summary of the series- know who we are today and who we will become
  - 1. The church is on mission because God is on mission
  - 2. One day, every tongue, nation, and tribe will confess that Jesus is Lord.