

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: 2 Samuel 22:2-3

Text: Acts 10:34-48

Title: "Cornelius' Salvation"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 22:4

Next Week's Text: Acts 11:1-18

Next Week's Title: "Peter's Report"

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

Future Titles: "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: We need to hear, believe in, and be reminded of the Gospel.

Christ redeeming FCF: Jesus is the Gospel- His life, ministry, death, and resurrection. And through His fulfillment, we have the Holy Spirit.

Proposition: "Jesus is the good news. Do we believe?"

Summary: Peter preaches the good news to Cornelius and his loved ones, who are Gentile. He preaches the same gospel he preached to the Jews: Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection. At the end of the chapter, we see the Gentiles respond with faith and repentance, and they receive the Holy Spirit just like the Pentecost. Do we trust in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and are we living in the power of the Holy Spirit?

Reflective Questions:

1. What sticks out to you from Peter's sermon?
2. What does the response of Cornelius and his loved ones mean for you?

### I. Introduction

- A. Hook- Cornelius is ready with his family to listen to God's word.
- B. Transition- Peter's sermon to Gentiles is both similar and dissimilar to his other sermons in Acts. Presents Jesus as Savior and explains the need for faith and repentance. No Scriptural references and direct call to believe. Probably because the Holy Spirit falls on them.
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

### II. What did Peter preach? (vv. 34-43)

- A. Peter opened his mouth- phrasing refers to thoughtfulness before speech
- B. God shows no partiality toward a certain ethnicity, race, class, language, etc.
- C. Anyone who fears Him and does what is right- faith and fruit of obedience
- D. Good news of peace through Christ- good news is found in peace and salvation; not just teaching or counseling or making us feel good
  1. We are at war with God in our sin- fight to the death. (It's ok to not be ok)
  2. Message of Christ is peace for us; peace of God found on peace with God
- E. Start with baptism of John the Baptism, instead of birth
  1. Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth only in Matthew and Luke
  2. Baptism in three of the four; John refers to the truth of the baptism
  3. Baptism- to fulfill all righteousness, to be a representative for man; God's approval and anointing of Jesus
- F. Miracles- Undoing of the fall; signs showing that Jesus is the Messiah (pictures of kids)
- G. Witnesses- like a court case
- H. Death by hanging on a tree- referring to curse
- I. God raised Him on the third day- resurrection; appearance to God's chosen witnesses; ate and drank- real physical bodily resurrection, also intimacy
- J. Preach that Jesus is the judge of the living and the dead
- K. Fulfillment of the prophets- faith receives forgiveness of sins

### III. What was the response?

- A. The Holy Spirit interrupts Peter's sermon.

1. They were so ready... eager to believe... that Peter's reference to faith was enough for them to believe and receive the Spirit.
  - B. Very similar to Pentecost- the gift and power of the Holy Spirit rest on both the circumcised and the uncircumcised
  - C. They are baptized with water since they are saved.
    1. This shows us how baptism is necessary when circumcision is not.
  - D. Peter stays with them for some days- teaching, fellowship
- IV. What does it mean for us?
- A. Maybe some of us are in our sin, not knowing Jesus and the peace of God.
    1. God calls us to believe in Jesus and we who were enemies are made children of God.
  - B. Maybe we need to come back to the gospel truth of Peter and be reminded of who Jesus is and what He has done
    1. We are in Christ, so we now have received the approval of the Father that Jesus has earned.
    2. Jesus is our healer.
    3. Jesus has taken on the curse of sin on the cross, so that we may receive the blessing of His righteousness.
    4. God has done everything in Jesus, and we bring nothing to the table.
    5. Jesus is the Judge who will come back to judge the living and the dead
  - C. Maybe we need to be reminded of the response of the gospel
    1. The Holy Spirit is in us, Gentiles. We have power in Him and presence with Him. We don't need a separate baptism of the Spirit. Our faith marks the Spirit's baptism.
    2. We have been baptized with water, pointing toward a spiritual baptism.
    3. We are called to bring the gospel with the world and remain with people different from us for the sake of the gospel.