

CP - 11/6/22

Acts 10:1–16 - Visions and Change

Sermon Outline

Recap:

- *Saul of Taurus converted - God has been working/sanctifying/using him out of spotlight
- *Summary statement in 9:31 - major section on Peter's ministry (9:32–12:19)
- *Peter has been ministering in upper Palestine; now staying in Joppa
- *Church's witness slowly moving outward. Chapter 10 begins another movement!

1. Cornelius and his vision (10:1–8)

- *A military man
- *A devout man - Gentile follower of Judaism; synagogue; uncircumcised (11:3)
- *A charitable man
- *A praying man
- *A lost man

- *Cornelius needed to hear the gospel and be changed by the Lord.
- *God had been preparing Cornelius to hear the gospel.

*Five hurdles to true faith:

- *Morality
- *Local church involvement
- *Baptism / religious ceremony
- *Generic belief in God (James 2:19)
- *Profession of faith/personal decision for Jesus with no life change

2. Peter and his vision (10:9–16)

- *Peter was undergoing change
 - *Acts 2 - Jews from every nation and in Jerusalem
 - *Acts 3 - preaching in the temple
 - *Acts 4–5 - witness before the council
 - *Acts 5 - ministering in Jerusalem
 - *Acts 8 - ministering in Samaria
 - *Gospel has moved to Samaria and even Ethiopia but this is the first time an apostle will spiritually interact with a Gentile!
 - *Acts 9 - Peter is staying at a tanner's house.

*Peter needed more change.

- *Peter believed the OT food laws were still in effect.
- *Peter believed the OT spiritual community was the same.
- *God had to prepare Peter to share the gospel with the Gentiles.

*Peter needed to understand the gospel deeper and continually be changed by the Lord.

Application:

- *Are you merely religious or born again?
- *There is no end to maturity as a follower of Jesus.
- *How big is your gospel vision?

Small Group Questions

1. What spoke to you from the Bible passage and sermon Sunday morning?
2. What is the most striking characteristic about Cornelius' life to you?
3. Especially where we live, why is it so easy to be religious and not truly follow Jesus? What is the difference between religion and the new birth? What is the great danger in not knowing the difference?
4. How had Peter already undergone changes in the book of Acts? In what ways did Peter still need to grow and mature? How does this encourage us?
5. Discuss Peter's vision. What was the importance of what he saw? What did the voice say in 10:15, and what was the Lord teaching Peter? How do we need our gospel vision broadened?