

Sermon Discussion Guide:

Peter Preaches to the Gentiles

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Scripture: **Acts 10:34–43**

Series: **The Spirit & The Church**

OVERVIEW

We see in the book of Acts that, despite opposition, the early church is growing both numerically and in its understanding of redemption. We also see that Jesus came to save a people for his possession—not only Jews, but gentiles as well. The Gospel is both exclusive and inclusive. It is only found in Jesus and the Spirit is calling out from every tribe, tongue, and nation God's people.

The Good news is that God brings peace to all peoples only through Jesus.

CORROBORATING TEXTS

Acts 8:4, 8:26; Daniel 7:13; Acts 11:3; Acts 10:5,22; Luke 7:1-10; Luke 23:47; Romans 2:11; Galatians 2:6; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:25; Ephesians 2:11-21; Revelation 7; John 6:28-29; Luke 3:22; Luke 4:18; Isaiah 61:1; Luke 24:46-48.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The people of God in the old testament were called to be culturally exclusive—raised to believe that all of God's covenant promises were for them, being set apart from the culture, to be pure and holy. In what ways are we as believers called to be distinct and different from our culture? How does this separation affect your relationships in the workplace, neighborhood, or home? Do you struggle maintaining purity and holiness in an ever-increasingly hostile culture?
2. Jonah avoided preaching Nineveh because he knew that God is gracious and would save. The Gospel is the “great unifier”— for those who are like us in life experiences and for those who we have nothing in common with. For those we get along with and for those we might not connect with. Why might you struggle to share the Gospel with coworkers, neighbors, or family? Is it a lack of opportunity, or knowing how to witness? Is it a comfort zone struggle?
3. The early church had to grapple with the old testament notion of salvation exclusivity (Messiah was only coming to redeem them) and the paradigm shift that salvation is offered to all people—that God was redeeming a people unto himself from every tribe, tongue, and nation. In what ways do we struggle with believing that God can save anyone? What does it say about our faith if we begin thinking that someone is “too far gone” to believe in God's grace?
4. Scott mentioned that “We must all personally repent/believe in Jesus for salvation. Don't confuse being in a Christian family or church with salvation. Don't confuse conservative political/social views with salvation. You may be within the Christian cultural markers and be without Christ.” What does it mean to “possess” Christ? How does your association with Jesus change your principles and priorities? In what ways is the Gospel good news to you today?