

Something New: Being Who God Wants

Acts 10

1. Intro

1. About 10 years after Pentecost
2. The third turning point in Acts
 1. All nations would be blessed through Abraham (Gen 22:18; Acts 3:25)
 2. Pentecost (Acts 2); Samaritans (Acts 8); finally the Gentiles. (Acts 10)
 1. Now all are blessed.

3. The Story

1. Cornelius is a Gentile, but a believer in God. (v.2-3)
 1. He is praying
 2. He is instructed to send for one Simon Peter (v.5)
2. Peter sees something strange in a vision (11-13)
 1. He is praying
 2. Peter will not defile himself (v.14)
 3. God has cleansed these things (v.15)
3. Peter goes to Cornelius' household (v.23)
4. There they received the spirit and are baptized (v. 44-48)

5. The Application

1. For Peter something new had happened.
 1. Peter had to accept something that he had rejected his whole life.
2. What is going on in your life?
 1. Is there something new or different.
 1. Has the spirit been nudging you in your thinking in a certain area?
 1. It is hard to leave old ideas and embrace new understanding.
3. Am I making an effort to understand God's word a little better?
 1. Peter was given new understanding.
 2. He would have to explain that to others later on. (Chp 11)
 3. It would allow Him to minister to a wider group of people.
 4. It would deepen his relationship with Jesus.
4. Going deeper into the word will deepen your relationship with Jesus
 1. You will have a greater appreciation for what He did for you.
 2. You will respond to Him in a different way.
 3. You will respond to people in a different way.
5. What would the impact be if the Gentiles were excluded?
 1. If Peter had said no.
 1. An ordinary man called by God to go, but will not go past his comfort zone
 2. Later on Paul confronts Peter on this issue (Gal 2:11-13)
 2. Would you have been affected if God had left it at that?
6. What will be the impact in your life if you stay where you are?
 1. Peter was moved along in his life
 1. denial—restoration; Pentecost; Cornelius; Imprisoned – released miraculously; Antioch (two-faced)

7. Conclusion

1. Can we strip away some of the excess baggage that we carry?
 1. Peter carried a lot of Jewish baggage (v. 28)
2. This is about being not doing.
 1. It is the inner self
 1. The heart, the character, the will
 2. It is about the person God wants me to be.
 3. If you can work on the being and develop a closer relationship with Jesus, the doing will come naturally.
3. As you go about your tasks this week, ask yourself this:
 1. What type of person does God want me to be?
 2. How do I implement that?