

Abide in Me

John 15:4

*Bible studies for disciples
who make disciples*



Volume 8 - Number 3

The Week of October 16, 2022

Telling the Truth
The Gospel for the World
Acts 10:28-47

In Acts 1:8 Jesus told His disciples that they would “receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them and they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” God has had one relentless idea to form a people from every tribe, tongue, and nation on the earth who would live in harmony with Him and with one another. The book of Acts is the unfolding of that idea. The preaching of the Apostles was one of the primary means God used towards achieving that mission.

The sermon preached by Peter in Acts 10 became the radical step so necessary towards fulfilling the Great Commission. The preaching of the gospel brought Cornelius and his friends (i.e. Gentiles) into the family of God without requiring them to pass through Judaism first. In addition, the first message preached by an Apostle to non-Jews prepares us to tell the truth when someone asks us about the hope in Christ that we possess.

READING PETER’S SERMON

- Place a Δ around every occurrence of *God* in this account.
- Above the word *law* in verse 28 write *it is taboo* or *against our custom*.
- In the left margin of verse 28 write *Acts 10:9-16*.
- Circle the word *commanded* in verses 33 and 42 and draw a connecting line between them.
- In the right margin of verse 32 write *Caesarea to Joppa ~ 30 miles*.
- In the right margin of verse 30 write *the crucifixion*; of verse 40 write *the resurrection*; and of verse 42 write *the exaltation*.
- Place brackets around *you are well aware* (v. 28) *you know* (v. 36) and *you know* (v. 37).
- In reviewing Peter’s sermon in verses 34-43, underline the parts that are new as compared to his previous sermons in Acts 2 and 3.
- Underline the phrase *accepts from every nation* (v. 35) and *everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name* (v. 43) and draw a connecting line between them.

28 He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. 29 So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?”

30 Cornelius answered: “Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me 31 and said, ‘Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor. 32 Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.’ 33 So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us.”

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the

people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

39 “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, 40 but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. 41 He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, 47 “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”

EXPLORING PETER’S SERMON TOGETHER

1. Describe a cross-cultural experience of your own. What customs were different from yours? In what ways did that experience change your perspective?

2. Read the account of Peter’s vision in Acts 10:9-16. In what way was Peter’s understanding of God, the gospel, and humanity changed by his vision?

3. If you had a vision similar to Peter’s, what customs or attitudes might God be confronting in your life and the Church?

4. Build a profile of Cornelius. Who was he? What did he do? What was his relationship to God? What did Peter say about him?

5. If God already accepted Cornelius (v. 35), did he also need to be saved? Support your answer from Peter's sermon. How is this issue related to the eternal destiny of those who have never heard the gospel?

6. Summarize Peter's sermon to Cornelius and his friends. Identify the core themes in his sermon. What's new in Peter's sermon compared to his previous sermons? What's different?

7. How can you be ready for God to send someone like Cornelius to you? If someone asked you to tell them what God has commanded you to say, what would you tell them?

8. What happened, so that Peter's sermon was interrupted, to show Jewish believers that God was welcoming non-Jewish believers into His spiritual family? Why was this moment so important for the Church and its commitment to the Great Commission?

9. What new wind of the Spirit needs to blow through the Church and our lives today so that we once again become a Great Commission community?

Next Week: Acts 13:16-41

Sermon Notes: *The Gospel for the World*

Acts 10:28-47