



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
MESSAGE TITLE: GUEST OR HOST?

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): Acts 10:1-23

In this part of Acts chapter 10, God does two unexpected things. First he speaks to Cornelius, a man who fears God but is not a Jew. Until this point in the church, everyone who has encountered Jesus has been Jewish, or closely related to the Jews, like the Samaritans. God speaking to someone outside of Israel's children is surprising.

Secondly, God gives the apostle Peter an interesting vision. In this vision, God informs Peter that he is no longer bound by the Jewish purity laws. This enables him to accept the invitation of Cornelius to come and tell him about Jesus. Peter is willing to be the guest of a non-Jew (a violation of Jewish Law which normally would have defiled Peter) in order to share the good news about Jesus. We are often called to do the same thing for the sake of the Gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Would you rather host a party or be a guest at a party?

What food are you most likely to crave when you're hungry?

What is the most unexpected thing that's happened to you in the last month?

What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How is Cornelius described in this passage? Was he a Jew or a Greek (non-Jew/Gentile)?

2. What message did the angel give to Cornelius about how God viewed him?

3. What did the angel tell Cornelius to do? How did he respond?

4. What did Peter see while he was in a trance? What was said to him? How did Peter respond?

5. What happened right after Peter's vision? What did Peter agree to do?

cont.

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LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Do you know someone like Cornelius? How are they similar to him?
2. What do you learn from this passage about how God views our prayers and good works?
3. What seemingly odd/random things have you heard God asking people to do today? What happened when they obeyed?
4. Peter's vision seems to indicate that God is making the Gentile, who were seen as unclean, clean in God's sight. What divisions in our world or church today are similar to the divisions between Jews and Gentiles? What lessons do you learn from this passage about how Christians should handle these divisions?
5. Pastor Brad points out that Peter agrees to be the guest of Cornelius. He doesn't ask Cornelius to come to him, he is willing to enter Cornelius' world and home. How might Christians today do something similar in our world? What might it look like for us to be the "guests" of those who don't yet know Jesus?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What would it look like in your life for you to be more like Cornelius?
2. How important are prayer and giving to you? How does this passage encourage or challenge you?
3. Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed strange in the moment? What happened?
4. What divisions in our world and in our church are most heartbreaking to you? What role can you play in easing these divisions?
5. What would it look like in your own life to spend more time as a guest to those outside the church rather than a host?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What's one thing you can do this week to emulate Cornelius' care and concern for other people, God's people in particular?

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2. What can you do, or how can you pray, this week to help mend the divisions that break your heart?
3. What's one way that you (and/or your group together) can act as guests in the world this week?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.

