



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
MESSAGE TITLE: WHEN THE WALLS COME DOWN

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *Acts 10:23-48; Luke 4:24-28*

In this passage, Peter goes to Cornelius' home. Cornelius understands the significance of the religious and cultural barriers that Peter is crossing to come to his home, and tries to honor Peter, but Peter tells Cornelius what God has revealed to him: no person is common or unclean to God. Peter then asks Cornelius why he sent for him. Cornelius shares the message he received from God: that Peter has something important to tell him and his family. Peter then shares the gospel message with all those gathered and the Holy Spirit comes to the Gentiles, demonstrating that all people can now come to Jesus.

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. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon? Why was it significant to you?
2. Have you ever been in a situation where someone played favorites? What happened?
3. Are you a natural rule follower or rule breaker? How does this help and hinder you?
4. Last time we met, we talked about [whatever you talked about]. Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice? Has it had an impact on your life in any way?

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 did Cornelius greet Peter? How did Peter respond?
2. According to the text, why was it unusual that Peter would come to Cornelius' house? What reason did Peter give for breaking from the norm?
3. Read Luke 4:24-28. How might these words of Jesus have prepared Peter for this encounter with Cornelius?

cont.

CONTINUED:

4. Sum up in your own words the message that Peter gave to Cornelius and the guests in his home. What did these people already seem to know? What new things did Peter share with them?
5. What happened as Peter was sharing his message? What did he say they should do?

LOOK OUT

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

1. Cornelius bowed down before Peter when he first met him, but Peter reminded him that he was just an ordinary man and even touched him, even though that was unheard of for a Jewish person. How have you seen people (that you know or know of) show their humanity and cross barriers?
2. Peter broke a religious rule to enter into Cornelius' house. What are some religious/cultural/etc. rules you have seen people break to reach others in our own world/time?
3. What are some ways that you have seen God use those that seem to be far from God or show up in a dramatic way in a person or group you would least expect? These could be examples from your own life, history, or elsewhere in the Bible.
4. What does it mean to you that God does not show favoritism? How have you seen that principle at work in the world?
5. How is the Holy Spirit's coming in this passage similar to or different from the coming of the Holy Spirit in other passages we've seen in Acts thus far? What might be the reason for the differences?

LOOK IN

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

1. What might it look like for you to show your humanity and cross barriers with others?
2. What encourages or challenges you about the fact that Peter was called to break a religious rule in this passage? What implications might that have for your life and your interactions with others?
3. How do you respond to God's work in people or groups that seem far from Him? Are you encouraged by it or do you find it hard to accept? Why?

cont.

CONTINUED:

4. Have you thought of God as someone who plays favorites with certain people or groups? How does this passage challenge your thinking and your actions?
5. How does this passage challenge your thinking about the Holy Spirit? How does it encourage you?

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 religious rules might God be asking you to break for the sake of the Gospel? How can your group support you in this journey?
2. Are there any people or groups where you have a hard time thinking that God could work in them? How can your group pray for you as you seek to see them as God does?
3. Have you found yourself playing favorites with certain people or groups? What can you do this week to combat that tendency? How can your group encourage you?

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.

ACTS: When the world turned upside-down | Acts 10:23-48 | When the walls come down

Beaverton Foursquare Church · Pastor Brad Williams

Last week - radical reconciliation moment of Peter

Peter gets invited to Cornelius' house. Cornelius bows at Peter's feet. Acts 10:26 Peter lifted him up, saying,

Just before this Peter thought of Gentiles being untouchable, but Jesus came and changed everything

"Stand up, I am a man too."
Jews did not touch Gentiles because they were "unclean".

Jesus' teaching shows over & over going outside the faithful, to people on the outside.

Acts 10:28 - Peter says that God showed him not to call a person common or unclean.

How we talk matters.
Could it be that people who have been touched by grace, discover a freedom in extending grace to others?

WHEN WE REALIZE WE WERE THE UNCLEAN TOUCHED BY GOD'S GRACE WE GAIN THE FREEDOM TO SPREAD & SHARE GOD'S GRACE WITH OTHERS.

Peter tells Cornelius that he came without objection and then he listened to them. *He didn't just start preaching.

Peter hears the story & then speaks. Acts 10:30-43

Peter told them of Jesus!

THEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME ON THEM - the Gentiles!

It's that simple.
It moves from a Jewish reality to a GLOBAL REALITY!

A lot of parallels with Pentecost. It's the completion of Acts 2.

Next - baptisms - gentiles & Jews AND PETER IS INVITED TO STAY A WHILE - living, eating in a gentile home & life - together.

THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR WILLINGNESS, AND GOD'S FAITHFULNESS! - if you are willing, God can use you to shift others.

God is inviting you to give your life to Him to use in ways you can't imagine!
ARE YOU WILLING?