

The Gentiles Are Converted

Acts 11:1-18

April 10, 2022

Vision: Rejoicing as people come to life in Christ.

Mission: Building relationships that lead to Gospel transformation.

"The Bible tells the truth about God. The four Gospels tell the truth about Jesus. We read the Bible together as God's people to hear God's Word to us. We will engage in the faithful interpretation of the Bible under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We gladly hear the Word with open minds and full hearts. Together we will hear and do the Word from God as a faithful and obedient people. Amen." ~ Dr. Rodney Kennedy

This morning we are going to look at Peter's account of taking the Gospel to the Gentiles and some reminders that it offers us.

Don't call that which you think is "unworthy" when God has considered it worthy.

And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, ³ saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!" Acts 11:2-3

But the voice answered me again from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.' Acts 11:9

Now none of us are "worthy", but God died for our sins and He desires that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:8-10). Therefore, when we trust in Him, His blood has made us worthy.

Who is it in your life that you would say, "They are unworthy of God's love and forgiveness and they don't deserve it"? Truth is none of us do. The Jews thought they were the only ones that "deserved" God's love and while none of us deserve it, God gave it to us. We must trust in it!

God came to die for even that person that you can't stand, gets on your nerves, has hurt you or that has done something "evil." He has offered His gift of salvation to all who would believe.

Peter learned this. As God spoke to him he realized that the Gospel was for not only the Jews, but the Gentiles.

Be ready and willing to hear the Holy Spirit!

Peter was listening. He couldn't quite figure it out at first, but He inclined his ears to the Spirit.

Be ever listening for the Spirit to speak; it's often the small, subtle voice.

Be ever in prayer and in God's Word. One of the best ways to discern the Holy Spirit's voice is to be listening to Him daily, already. So that when He speaks, you know.

Be with God's people.

"Unplug" from the "normalcy" of life and be still!

Tune yourself to the Spirit (Radio/ TV).

When Peter heard from the Lord, as did Cornelius, he obeyed and followed the Lord. He made an “investment” that would keep on giving.

Make an investment that will outlast you!

Investments are often SLOW GO!

“investment” - The investing of money or capital in order to gain profitable returns, as interest, income or profitable value.¹

Think of a retirement account or the like, you add a little each time so that when retirement age comes you can live comfortably. Investment is compounding, meaning it builds on the last.

Now think, change the word “money” or “capital” to people. What would our return, interest or value be? = disciples!

Investing takes:

Time

Energy

Patience

Peter heard and listened to the Holy Spirit. Because he listened, the Gospel went beyond the Jews and in fact has moved to us today.

Unless God comes back before you and I pass, what investment(s) are we making that will outlast us? Let me ask that again, what investments (people) am I making that will outlast me?

Who and what are you investing in, intentionally investing in?

Prayer Focus:

- **Know that God desires for all to come to repentance, do I?**
- **Am I putting myself in a position to listen to the Spirit?**
- **What investment(s) am I making that will outlast me?**

¹ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/investment>