

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“GOD’S WORLD MISSION SURGES FORWARD”

Big Idea: God’s world mission surges forward as God’s Spirit changes Peter and Cornelius to further impact all kinds of people.

Discuss

In his sermon, Joe touches on three truths that were made clear in the conversion of Cornelius, truths that changed the world then and that continue to change the world now. (For a summary of these truths, see the sermon outline.) For both Cornelius and Peter, the experience of Cornelius’ conversion had to have been radical and life-altering. We get a glimpse of the sweeping changes that are about to take place at the very outset of their time together, when Cornelius, a Roman centurion and Gentile, falls down in reverence before Peter, a Jew living under the authority of Rome. Two men, from vastly different backgrounds, are that very day to become brothers in Christ.

- 1) Paul reminds us in Galatians what Peter learned through his vision and experience with Cornelius: every believer is a son of God “through faith in Christ Jesus.” In Christ, “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female,” but all are “one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal. 3:26, 28)
 - Peter had to overcome his own prejudices to see this reality. What prejudices do we need to overcome to grasp this truth more deeply and apply it in our own lives?
- 2) Judging by the account given here (which, of course, is the only account we have), Cornelius was a nicer, more admirable person than Peter. He was God-fearing and gave to the poor. The Jewish people all respected him. Peter, on the other hand, seemed like a failure the night of Jesus’ crucifixion.
 - Who needs the Gospel, and does anyone need it more (in some way) than others?
 - In *Mere Christianity*, C. S. Lewis confronts a question often raised. If Christianity is true, then “why are not all Christians obviously nicer than all non-Christians?” How would you answer that question? (If you want to read Lewis’ response, it’s in chapter 10. There are at least three copies in the church library, something that will be available once we are no longer sheltering in place!)
- 3) Take a look at Peter’s sermon in verses 34 to 43.
 - What are the main components of his sermon?
 - Why do you think each of these main components is included? Why, for example, does he tell about Jesus’ baptism? Why the mention of Jesus being killed “by hanging him on a tree”? (v. 39—see also Deut. 21:22-23 and Gal. 3:13) Why the detail about the witnesses of Jesus’ resurrection eating and drinking with him?
 - Would these same details be helpful in sharing the Gospel today? Why or why not?

DATE: April 26, 2020

SPEAKER: Joe

SERIES: Acts

PASSAGE: Acts 10:23b-48

Pray

O Lord, my God, Light of the blind and Strength of the weak; yea, also, Light of those that see and Strength of the strong; hearken unto my soul and hear it crying out of the depths.

O Lord, help us to turn and seek you; for you have not forsaken your creatures as we have forsaken you our Creator. Let us turn and seek you, for we know you are here in our hearts, when we confess to you, when we cast ourselves upon you, and weep in your bosom, after all our rugged ways; and you do gently wipe away our tears, and we weep the more for joy; because you, Lord, who made us also remake and comfort us.

Hear, Lord, my prayer, and grant that I may entirely love you, and rescue me, O Lord, from every temptation, even unto the end.

In Jesus’ name. Amen.

– Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD)

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Widows Harvest Ministries

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Diana Notaro serving with International School Project