

FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

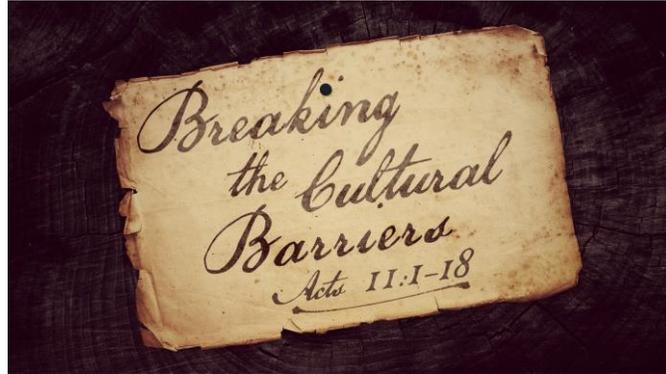
THEME: ACTS – EXPOSING GOD’S CHURCH COMMUNITY IN ACTION!

UNIT ONE – “The Gains of their Actions”

UNIT TWO – “The Pains of their Actions”

UNIT THREE – “The Fame of their Actions”

“PETER’S RESPONSE TO THE HOUSE GATHERING AT CORNELIUS”



Sunday School Lesson No. VIII - October 25, 2015

Rev. Frank A. Davis, III - Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Acts 11:1-18

Required Reading: Acts 11:1-18

Memory Texts: John 16:13a, *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...”*
Acts 11:17, *“Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Libronix Electronic Library; Precepts for Living (UMI), Word Search 9 and 10 Electronic Library; MacArthur Study Bible; Thirty Amazing People in the Bible by Dr. David Jeremiah; The Book of Acts by E. Gillentine; The Book of Acts in 24 Lessons by E. L. Bynum; George Brooks Preaching Commentary

INTRODUCTION

Quoting Dr. George Brooks’ Preaching Commentary, “This passage that serves as our text is a reminder that new movements of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church will cause some level of contention. This is so because not all members of the Church can discern the Spirit of God moving in the life of the Church. This may even be the case with preachers.

There are many Christians who are narrow-minded. They see well the physical side of the Church but not the spiritual. This was the case with the apostles and brethren in Judea.”

Now let us go back and remember the study in Chapter 10 of the Acts. Remember how God sent an angel to Cornelius the Gentile Roman soldier who sought the Lord diligently after gathering family and friends at his house. The results were astounding but all were not happy at the moment because tradition was broken and it caused some ill feelings until the Lord’s Spirit intervened and brought some peace for a season.

Tradition can be a challenge to the best of people, even apostles of Christ. Let us turn to the lesson for this week entitled “Peter’s Response to the House Gathering at Cornelius’.”

Anticipated Power Points are:

- **Peter Challenged.** Acts 11:1-3
- **Peter Responded Clearly.** Acts 11:4-12
- **Peter’s Account of Cornelius.** Acts 11:13-15
- **Peter’s Contentment.** Acts 11:16-18

LESSON OUTLINE

I. Peter Challenged. Acts 11:1-3

After a great move of God in the lives of the Gentiles at Cornelius' house gathering, the word gets back to the Jewish apostles at Jerusalem and instead of rejoicing that the Gospel has come to the Gentiles, there is a sour taste in their mouths because the once exclusive Gospel is now in the hearts and souls of the Gentiles! The Jewish Christian leaders forgot the words of Christ in Acts 1:8, where we read, *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* And in Genesis 12:3 we find, *"And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."*

II. Peter Responded Clearly. Acts 11:4-12

Peter's response to the apostolic Jewish leaders was truly an act of the grace of God!

A. A vision. vss. 4-6

Peter rehearsed his rooftop experience first by what he saw. God, during Peter's prayer time at lunch, allowed him to see this sheet let down from heaven with undoubtedly every kind of animal and beast that was forbidden under the Levitical law. (Note: "To keep the Israelites separate from their idolatrous neighbors, God set specific dietary restrictions regarding the consumption of such animals." MacArthur. Read Leviticus 11:24-31)

B. A voice. vss. 7-9

Peter remembers the voice of the Lord's command to which he used a term that is impossible to say to Jesus Christ, *"Not so, Lord."* Beloved, no one can acknowledge Jesus as Lord and say to Him, *"Not so."* Our response to the Lord should always be, "Yes Lord."

Peter's kosher Jewish ways were not acceptable to the lesson Jesus was teaching. The sheet raised and lowered three times spoke volumes of God's intent which was profoundly expressed in verse 8. God was not teaching a lesson in zoology, but in God's wonderful loving salvation to as many as received Him. Aren't you glad He included you and me? "Praise the Lord!"

C. A vindication. vss. 10-12

Peter's vindication was illustrated in triplicate.

1. Verse 10 – Three views of the Heavenly vision.
2. Verse 11 – Three visitors from Caesarea.
3. Verse 12 – Three times two witnesses verifying his stay at Cornelius' house.

(Remember Deuteronomy 19:15 which declares that *"in the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses, let every word be established."*)

III. Peter's Account Concerning Cornelius. Acts 11:13-15

When the account of Cornelius is considered, it is very viable by:

A. An angel's appearance. vs. 13a

B. The angel's announcement. vss. 13b-14

C. The authenticity of God's Advocate (the Holy Spirit). vs. 15

IV. Peter's Contentment. Acts 11:16-18

A. Peter remembers Jesus' testimony in Acts 1:5. vs. 16

B. Peter reminds the circumcised Christians not to contend with God! vs. 17

As confirmed by his own eyewitness account, Peter confirmed that what God did for the Jewish converts, He did the same for the Gentiles. Remember I Corinthians 1:22, *"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom."*

C. Peter's testimony is received by the Jewish Church brethren and Jesus is glorified. vs. 18

CLOSING

Beloved, are you glad that the way of salvation has been opened to the whosoever's? Isaiah 42:1 and 6 both speak prophetically of the Lord's blessings upon the Gentiles over 700 years before Christ was born. I'm glad that the door is now wide open to as many as would receive Jesus Christ, the Son of God! My friend, what are you waiting for? *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."* (John 1:12)

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans, LA & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite, LA

Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768

Phone: (504) 486-7876

Email: bible32@bellsouth.net

Website: www.thestudyhour.com

Radio Broadcast: WABL AM (Amite City) and wablradio.com, Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

TV Telecast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

Looking Ahead:

November 1, 2015

Acts 12:1-11

The Sunday School Lesson is taught each Wednesday at noon at Bibleway. All are welcome!

