

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week February 9, 2014

This Week's Focus: Peter continues his healing ministry as God prepares him to realize that the message of the gospel is available to all people groups.

This Week's Text: Acts 9:31-10:16

*And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person. **Mark 7:18-23***

*The difference between Cornelius and many religious people today is this: he knew that his religious devotion was not sufficient to save him. Many religious people today are satisfied that their character and good works will get them to heaven, and they have no concept either of their own sin or of God's grace. In his prayers, Cornelius was asking God to show him the way of salvation. **Warren Wiersbe***

Related Texts: 2 Corinthians 12:12; Mark 7:18-23; Romans 10:14-15; Leviticus 20:22-26; Deuteronomy 7:6-8; 2 Chronicles 6:32-33; Isaiah 43:9-12, 44:8

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What comes to mind when you hear the word "saint"? What is the biblical meaning of the word?
- Discuss Peter's ministry in Lydda and Joppa? Compare and contrast the two incidents.

- Why do you think Luke includes these two miracles as an introduction to the longer account of Cornelius' conversion?
- What does the healing of Aeneas and the raising of Dorcas point to?
- Why does the church in Joppa go looking for Peter?
- Dorcas is described as some one who is "full of good works and acts of charity". Who do you know that fits that description?
- Have you ever experienced a time of death in your service to others?
 - How has God breathed life back into your service to others?
 - What was the result of the healings? Why? Reference 9:35 and 42.
- What can be said about Cornelius?
- Cornelius is an example of a "good man" without the gospel. What do these verses teach us about such a person?
- Discuss the vision Peter sees and how it breaks down Peter's racial and cultural prejudices.
- Discuss the issue of prayer, particularly how it relates to Peter and Cornelius's prayers.
- What is the significance of Peter staying at Simon the Tanner's house?
- What was Peter's problem? Why did he have a problem with what God was showing him?
- What was God's purpose in giving Israel the laws concerning clean and unclean and consecrated and common?
- What does this passage say to us? How might God want us to apply it?
- Are there people or people groups that we refuse to go to because of our prejudices?
- Are we guilty of religious-, racial- and ethno-centrism in however subtle or even unintentional a form, which cut us off from some people?
- Read Galatians 2:11-15 and discuss the implications of the gospel of grace on racism.

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus has come to redeem all nations, races, tongues and tribes.
- Jesus took our "uncleanness" on himself and his "cleanness" has become ours!
- 2 Corinthians 5:21: ***For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.***

Prayer Focus:

- Look within and repent of any prejudices.
- Be open and willing to share Christ with whomever God calls you to.

Next Week's Text: Acts 10:17-11:18