

## Calvary Chapel on the Horizon

October 24, 2021

Acts 11 "Grace to All"

### I. Introduction

Read: Eph 2:11-22

- † Last week we saw that Peter had a vision that was, in essence, removing all the regulations and laws placed on the Jews...
- † And then he was told to go to a gentile's house and speak with them and we saw that salvation was available to them as well...
- † So, this week, we continue with the repercussions of this new revelation.

### II. Grace to the Gentiles

#### A. The Accusation

**Act 11:1-3** And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. 2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him, 3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

- † News travels fast...the church in Jerusalem knew about Peter's encounter with Cornelius before he even got back to Jerusalem...
- † And they were all fired up about Peter eating with the uncircumcised...it was a forbidden act for Jews to associate with Gentiles.
- † It was a horrible thing "Especially" for a Jew to eat with a gentile – the Jews thought that eating created a oneness and fellowship that bonded people together. At a meal, they had communal bread, soup, dipping sauces, etc.: and they didn't have etiquette that prevented "double-dipping"!
- † So, if we eat of the same bread & soup, if we dip in the same sauces...and our bodies assimilate the same foods...it makes us one with each other.
- † And NO JEW wanted to be "one" with a gentile.

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#### B. Peter & Cornelius

**Act 11:4-18** But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, 5 I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me: 6 Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw four footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat. 8 But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth. 9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. 10 And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven. 11 And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me. 12 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house: 13 And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; 14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. 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? 18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

- ✝ **Pete recounts for the legalistic Jews what had happened to him...we went through this in detail last Sunday...**
- ✝ **For it to be all written out for us to read a second time means it is important to God that we get this message...that salvation has come to both Jew and gentile through the finished work of Jesus Christ our Lord!**
- ✝ **Rom 1:16-17** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **"The just shall live by faith"**.

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### III. The Church at Antioch

#### A. Salvation for the Jews

**Act 11:19-21** Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only. 20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus. 21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

- † **Up until Peter and Cornelius' interactions...the Jews thought that only Jews could be saved through Jesus.**
- † **Consequently, they only took the gospel to the Jews. Fortunately, a great number of them believed and turned to Jesus!**

#### B. Barnabas

**Act 11:22-24** Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch. 23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

- † **News of the church growing in the northern regions prompted the leaders in the church at Jerusalem to send for Barnabas (whose name means "son of encouragement" or "son of consolation" (Acts 4:36)) to check it out.**
- † **Note, they didn't send an Apostle but a "B" postle (lol) – they just sent a brother in the Lord that had the calling on his life to encourage others.**
- † **As we look at his description: he was a good man (meaning upright and honorable), he was full of the Holy Ghost, and was full of faith – He believed God and that Jesus is who He says He is and believed in the great works of God!**
- † **Because of his exhortations and his encouragements, much people were added unto the Lord.**

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C. Saul

**Act 11:25-26** Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: 26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

† **Remember Saul was in Tarsus for his protection: Act 9:26-30** And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. 28 And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. 29 And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. 30 Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

† **But Barnabas felt that Saul should be part of this ministry to the gentiles in Antioch (remember what Ananias was told by the Lord?)**

† **Act 9:15** But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

† **And...once Saul got there, they spent the next year teaching the people.**

† **We saw in v.20 that there was preaching; we saw in v.23 that there was exhortation, and now we see preaching. There are many gifts of the Holy Spirit that can be exercised if we will yield ourselves fully to God and follow His leading.**

† **Now, because of all of the discipleship activity in Antioch...they who followed Jesus began to be called "Christians"; which means to be Christ-like.**

† **Unfortunately, this term has been terribly abused and there are people who live in the United States who think they are Christians just because they were born here. What a horribly false sense of security.**

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### IV. Conclusion

**Act 11:27-30** And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch. 28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. 29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: 30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

† **Here we see the gift of giving being exercised...every man according to his ability gave to help others.**

† **Paul told the Corinthian church in 2Co 9:6-7** But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

† **God loves when we freely give to Him of what we have...time, talents and treasures.**

† **So...what is our take-away today?**

† **Act 1:8** 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.

† **What is your gift? Are you preaching, teaching, exhorting or giving or one of the many other gifts?**

† **What does your witness look like? Do people hear about Jesus from you?**