



A GAME CHANGER (PART II) - ACTS 10:23B-48

STARTING THE DISCUSSION...

The conversion of Cornelius is one of the most significant moments in church history. It is the moment where the gospel went from being an internal Jewish faith, to one that would spread across and change the entire world. God teaches Peter what the death and resurrection of Jesus means for the conversion of the Gentiles, that they are also saved by their faith, not becoming culturally Jewish. It means that no one on earth is excluded from the gospel because of their background or ethnicity. However, God still sends Peter to talk to Cornelius and share the good news of Jesus with him. The truth that the gospel of Jesus is open to all is the catalyst for our missions and evangelism. As believers we are called to openly share the grace of God that comes through Jesus to all around us.

KEY TEXT: ACTS 10:23B-48

The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man." ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. ²⁸ And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person



common or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me."

³⁰ And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing ³¹ and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' ³³ So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Additional Texts: Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 15:3-5, Acts 2:37-38



UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. In verse 34, Peter declares that 'God shows no partiality,' what does that phrase mean? Also consider Galatians 2:6, how is it being used in that context?
2. Does this text teach that receiving the Holy Spirit always is accompanied by speaking in tongues? Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. How does Paul's teaching inform us on what is happening in Acts?

APPLYING THE WORD

3. The clear response from this passage is to believe and be baptized. Have you place your faith in Jesus? Have you been baptized? Is there anything holding you back from either of these? What lasting impact have those two steps had on your life?
4. The call to all believers is to share the good news of Jesus with others, how would you succinctly share the gospel with someone else?

PRAYING & ACTING

1. Share with your group the name(s) of one or two people that you would like the opportunity to share the gospel with in your life. Pray that God would give you opportunities to share and hold one another accountable to be reaching out.
2. How can your Life Group reach out to your community this week? Who can you invite to join your group?

