



Title | Getting Out of God's Way
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 11:1-18
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | January 17, 2021

Sermon Notes

Acts 11:1 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. **2** So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, **3** “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” **4** But Peter began and explained it to them in order: **5** “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, . . . **12** And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. **13** And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; **14** he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ **15** As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. **16** And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ **17** If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” **18** When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.” *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Acts 11:17 “If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?” *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 11:1-18. Who are the people in “the circumcision party” and why did they criticize Peter? Read Acts 10:28. How was associating with Gentiles “unlawful” for Jews? How do you think it became unlawful? To what extent does this happen today?

Tuesday:

Reread Acts 11:12. What does “making no distinction” mean? How can you apply it?

Wednesday:

According to Acts 11:10, the voice from God repeated the admonition three times. What does this suggest about Peter’s initial response? How do you feel about Peter admitting this?

Thursday:

According to Acts 11:17, Peter believed that his own prejudice against Gentiles stood in God’s way and needed to be cleared. To what extent do you think you have prejudices (ethnic, political, sexual, theological, gender, socioeconomic, etc.) that may be standing in God’s way?

Friday:

What one thing could you do right now to help make sure your prejudices don’t stand in God’s way? Read Galatians 2:11-14. What does this suggest about recovery from prejudice?

Daily Prayer:

Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. And see if there be any prejudice that stands in your way. Amen.