

Acts of the Apostles

26 – Everyone’s Gospel

Acts 10.34-11.18

Start with the Gospel (10.34-43)

- Jesus came for us (v.38) – RESCUE (seek and save the lost – Luke 19.10)
- Jesus died and rose (v.39-40) – RESURRECTION (Forgiveness, life, freedom)
- Jesus will return to judge the world (v.42-43) – REPENT
 - We proclaim and testify this message – reporting, not convincing
 - “I solemnly swear...”
 - If we don’t have a sense of both this kind of speaking and this kind of sent-ness, we don’t really have a clear grasp on the Gospel itself
 - Until the Gospel becomes real for me personally, I’ll never be useful in ministry globally
 - Some may need to rehearse it to ourselves, all of us need to rehearse it to others

Signs were clear (10.44-48)

- Two powerful images
 1. Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles (kind of like a 2nd Pentecost, but really an inclusion of Gentiles in 1st Pentecost) – showing God’s approval
 2. Baptism of believers – showing church’s approval
 - They weren’t being baptized into Judaism but into Christianity
 - What united them now was far more powerful than what separated them before

Why it matters (*present tense* – for today!) (11.1-18)

- God is claiming *for Himself* a people
 - Not *us* claiming a people
 - Not God claiming people for a church / our church
 - People do NOT need to become like us in order to be Christians
 - God never wants people to look like me in order to become Christians – He wants people to become Christians *in order to look like Him* (Romans 8.29 – conformed to image of His Son)
 - Jesus is a personal Savior but saves without partiality – all types, all stripes
 - Nobody qualifies for grace – nobody merits mercy
- Gentiles: those lesser breeds without the law
 - Who is that for us?
 - Racial issues
 - Sexual struggles

- Politically different
- Do we expect holiness to follow? Absolutely
 - Gospel takes hold and transforms allegiances, affections, actions (1 Cor 6.9-11 – such were some of you)
 - Argument: I don't need transforming – we all do

Peter's Model: reaching out to "the Gentiles" without releasing the Gospel

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the name of someone you can pray for an opportunity this week to share the Gospel with? What kind of opportunity might you anticipate? Was it hard or easy to come up with a name? Why?
2. Reread Acts 2.1-12. What similarities do you see in the Acts 2 passage with the Acts 10.44-48 passage? Why would it be important to emphasize this as an inclusion of the Gentiles into Pentecost instead of a "second Pentecost?" What do you see in the text that would agree with that emphasis?
3. What are two ways you have seen or experienced people wanting others to become like them before becoming Christians? Was it overt or beneath the surface? Reread Romans 8.29. What does Paul emphasize there that keeps us from looking for conformity instead of Christ? Why do you think Paul emphasized that (based on what you know of his life)?
4. In the sermon, Trent stated that there are three areas he sees that our culture treats as "lesser breeds without the law." Of those three (race, sexuality, politics), which do you think you see most? Least? What would you add to the list of those who are "out of bounds?"
5. Reread 1 Corinthians 6.9-11. This is an important text for all of us to live out "Peter's Model" of reaching out without releasing the Gospel. What is it about this text that provides good news without placating sin? What is one step you need to take to live out "Peter's Model" this week?