

Acts of the Apostles

25 – No Common Person

Acts 10

Is God at work? (10.1-16)

- Where and when and with whom?
- Pursuing a people for relationship
 - If you want to know what's on God's heart, it's relationship (Luke 19.10, John 17.3)
- Preparing a people for service in His Kingdom
 - God-fearers were often first converts – which was good because of the stability and maturity it brought to the nascent church
- Empowering His people for ministry
 - WE are the normal way God pursues and prepares others
- Question for me (and us): do we believe it and are we set to act like it's true?

What is taboo? (10.9-29)

- Situation (v.17-24)
 - A place you won't go / people you won't be with
 - Not talking about walking in wisdom of morality (Rom. 13.14, 1 Cor. 15.33)
 - Taboo – “out of bounds” “beyond the pale”
 - How do I know? I think their sin will *infect* me (not *affect* me, *infect* me)
 - “I'm very open minded” – people politically different than you? Those you deem close-minded?
- Conversation (v.25-29)
 - Are there topics you won't touch?
 - Is it because you lack confidence in your beliefs? Remember, Jesus has the best possible answers to the most important questions
 - You may have to humble yourself and study, but you can be confident
 - Is it because you have shame regarding your experience?
 - Ongoing issue in Peter's life – here he was right (humility), in Galatians he was wrong (shame)
 - “I don't have my stuff together”
 - Rebecca – It's really hard but we all see God in it and I do my best to reach out whenever and to whomever I see struggling around me
 - Justin – I know it's affecting everyone around me and I just don't want to live in fear – yet he's living his struggle publicly for everyone to see the mountaintops and the valleys
 - It's okay not to be okay – it's just not okay to stay that way

- God will use you if you let Him

What will you say? (10.30-43)

- If no one is out of bounds (taboo) then everyone needs the Gospel
- Speak the Gospel - Rescue, Resurrection, Repent
 - Who is Jesus? What did He do? Why?

Questions for Discussion

1. When was the moment you realized you needed Jesus to save you? When did you finally surrender to Him?
2. Who can you identify in your life that God is clearly currently pursuing? What response or responsibility do you have in light of God's pursuit of that person? What is one thing you can do to participate in God's pursuit?
3. What situation (people or places) do you most often consider taboo or out of bounds for you to be in? (Again, we're not talking about walking in wisdom or morality) Why do you think this is a sticking point for you?
4. What conversation topic do you most often consider taboo? Why? Regarding that particular issue, do you find that you don't want to talk about it because you aren't confident in talking about it or carry shame regarding it or something else?
5. Reread Acts 10.30-43. In the sermon, Trent pointed to the "Three R's" in presenting the Gospel. Based on the passage, how would you articulate the Gospel? No matter how you talk about, it's important to actually talk about it. Read Romans 1.16. Take a few minutes and pray for those in your life that need the Good News to come to them through you.