

Feet Through a Strange Door

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Acts 10:1-8, 24-33

Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

Pledge Sunday = why give our money?

What's the purpose of the church?

Longest Narrative in Acts (66 verses 10:1-11:18)

We often read the conversion of the Roman Centurion Cornelius as the conversion of the pagans. While this story is a story of pagans responding to the Spirit of Jesus, it is more the story of the church responding to the Spirit of Jesus. The story is the dramatic conversion of the church from maintenance to mission. The purpose of the church is to follow Jesus through a strange door.

I.

Day 1: Out There

Acts 10:2 "Cornelius was a devout man who feared God"

Cornelius:

NCO in Caesarea (Herod the Great town), admin center

Joppa – 30 miles south

God-fearer (not circumcised) > proselyte > Jew (birth)

Seeking someone to help him and his family find God

*an outsider

Who is Cornelius for you?

-Next door, across the street

Something is happening with people out there

READ vv 3-4

They are looking for God

II.

Day 2: In Here

Acts 10:14 “I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean”

READ vv 13-15

Peter:

Locked into cultural world of Israel
Profane, unclean, circumcision, Sabbath, foods
Don't touch those out there, can't eat with them
Church = society within Judaism

Takes some prodding to get him moving (3x)

Jeff: Takes prodding to get me going

Refocusing: preaching, leadership, out of here

Something is happening with people in here

We are disturbed that God would have us go out there.

E.g. Church = society within Christendom

PCUSA: God is shaking us

Geneva: God is shaking us

III.

Why Go Out the Door?

Acts 10:4 “Your prayers and alms have ascended to God”

Acts 10:15 “What God has made clean, you must not call profane”

Why? = 2 reasons

1. Cornelius wants to find God but doesn't know where to go
2. Peter wants to find Jesus but has locked him in the church

Two conversions to Jesus Christ: Both are looking for Jesus

*This story is the conversion

-Those out there

-Us in here

IV.

Day 3: Conversion #1 = We Go Out There

Acts 10:23b “The next day he got up and went with them”

READ vv 23b-24

Missional = going where the Spirit is going; get up and go
“As the Father sent me, so I send you” (John’s Gospel)

Everything we do is mission (in here is *now* out there)
Church is stuck in maintenance (in here *but not* out there)

Where is the Holy Spirit?

Where can we get up and go?

How is all we do, not just part, related to going?

E.g. Jeff

- preaching
- leadership
- visiting
- staffing
- money

E.g. CPM question this week

- Have you ever led anyone to Jesus
- I was shocked at the answer

V.

Day 4: Conversion #2 = They/We Encounter the Spirit

Acts 10:44 “While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell”

Acts 11:18 “Then God has given even to the Gentiles”

READ vv 44-46

When the Spirit comes:

- Cornelius turns/converts
- The church turns/converts

What does this mean for Geneva?

- People out there want to know God
- We are stuck in an old paradigm
- Holy Spirit will throw us out of here