**A CALL YOU DON’T WANT TO MISS**

**Acts 11:1-30**

**THE BIG IDEA: God is still calling out His people to share the gospel of grace with others and to support His Kingdom work.**

**SALVATION COMES NOT THROUGH GOOD WORKS, BUT \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ALONE**

* **Cornelius was a devout man who feared God and did many charitable deeds, but it wasn’t until Peter preached the Gospel to him and his household that they believed and were saved.**
* *“He will speak a message to you by which you and all your household will be saved.”* (Acts 11:14)
* *“‘If, then, God gave them the same gift that he also gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, how could I possibly hinder God?’ 18 When they heard this they became silent. And they glorified God, saying, ‘So then, God has given repentance resulting in life even to the Gentiles.’”* (Acts 11:17-18)
* *“On the contrary, we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus in the same way they are.”* (Acts 15:11)
* **The beauty of the gospel is that you can do nothing to earn your salvation in Christ, because Jesus has completed the work necessary to freely give you salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Him!**
* *“For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift— 9 not from works, so that no one can boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**GOD IS STILL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ OUT PEOPLE TO REACH THE UNREACHED**

* *“But there were some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord’s hand was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.”* (Acts 11:20-21)
* *“Then [Barnabus] went to Tarsus to search for Saul, 26 and when he found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught large numbers. The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch.”* (Acts 11:25-26)
* **The question is not *whether* God is calling you to reach others with the Gospel, but “*Will* you answer the call to reach others for Christ?”**
* *“We always pray for you that our God will make you worthy of his calling, and by his power fulfill your every desire to do good and your work produced by faith, 12 so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified by you, and you by him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”* (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)
* **The Great Commission (Mathew 28:19-20) given by Jesus is the calling of every Christian to reach every nation, and it begins with the command to “Go”.**

**GOSPEL TRANSFORMATION SHOULD LEAD TO A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HEART**

* **The Gospel transformed the Gentiles in such a way that they desired to “send relief” to the elders for those who were once their enemies.**
* *“Each of the disciples, according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brothers and sisters who lived in Judea. 30 They did this, sending it to the elders by means of Barnabas and Saul.”* (Acts 11:29-30)
* **Generosity towards the Lord’s work through the local church is a direct result of a heart that has embraced the gift of salvation.**
* *“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that was given to the churches of Macedonia: 2 During a severe trial brought about by affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord, 4 they begged us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in the ministry to the saints.”* (2 Corinthians 8:1-4)
* **As Christians, we give to the Lord: 1) As an act of worship, 2) To share in supporting the ministry of the Church, 3) As an act of obedience, 4) To strengthen our faith, and 5) We are blessed when we give faithfully.**

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What is your favorite Summer activity and why?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Acts 11 teach us about God?
* Why is the story of Cornelius’ conversion so important?
* If Cornelius feared God and was so charitable, why did he need the Gospel?
* What was happening in Antioch that was so important?
* Why were the Gentile believers so generous towards the Jewish believers?

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* How does Cornelius’ conversion impact your view of salvation by grace alone? Why are good works essential for Christians to do?
* How do you view the calling of every Christian to evangelize?
* How are you being discipled? How are you making disciples?
* The early Christians demonstrated generous and often sacrificial giving to the work of the Lord. How does Acts 11:29-30 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 impact your view of giving?

**LOVING OUTWARD**

* Who in your life needs to hear the truth of the Gospel? How has this message/text affected and/or inspired you to reach them?
* Who are you inviting to Church next Sunday?