

# Peter reports to the church in Jerusalem

Acts 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

Acts 11:1

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John...

Acts 8:14

And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

Luke 5:30

And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

Luke 15:2

And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.”

Luke 19:7

“They criticized [Peter] for an action that seemed to have more significance for them than the salvation of these Gentiles. But it must be remembered that Peter’s action challenged their understanding of Scripture and what it meant to be the holy people of God. Such criticism by members of the Jerusalem church shows that Peter’s authority was ‘not such as to carry automatic approval of his activities’.”

Peterson, 343

...and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

Acts 15:9

And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace,  
which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance  
among all those who are sanctified.

Acts 20:32



... delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Acts 26:17-18

“... for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 1:5

John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Luke 3:16

## God's sovereignty and human responsibility

“Haenchen thinks that Luke overdoes God's supernatural interventions, that he thereby ‘virtually excludes all human decision’ and turns the obedience of faith into ‘very nearly the twitching of puppets’....

Stott, 195

## God's sovereignty and human responsibility

.... But this is unfair. To be sure, the divine intervention is plain, in the lives of both Cornelius and Peter, but neither of them was manipulated in such a way as to bypass his mind or will. On the contrary, they reflected on what they saw and heard, interpreted its significance, and deliberately chose to obey.”

Stott, 195

“In practical terms, this narrative challenges Christians to be wary of allowing any cultural, social, or inherited religious barriers to hinder the acceptance of new converts into the church. At the same time, it is an encouragement to recognize when a work of God’s Spirit is taking place -- perhaps in unexpected ways, in unexpected quarters -- and a warning not to be found opposing that work.”

Peterson, 350

“Truth doesn’t depend on agreeing with me.”

Francis Schaeffer, L’Abri, 1978