



Peat and Repeat

By Johnny Caruso on February 18, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 11

If you were like me as a child your parents repeated themselves a lot. It was because either I was not listening (which was often the case), or it was important enough for me to get the right instruction. To be totally honest about it, they said some things over and over again and it was usually accompanied with a slap to the back of the head or worse.

In the first part of chapter 11 God found it necessary to repeat what was in chapter 10. I believe it was something that was not expected by Peter or the Jews. Of course it was telling them the Gentiles were going to be a part of the promise of salvation. That was a hard pill to swallow for the Jews. After all, they were God's chosen people.

Today's passage is no exception. Luke has already described these events. Why does he choose to repeat them again here? One reason is that they have historical significance. Luke is simply describing what Peter said to those who questioned him. Another reason is to emphasize their importance. The spread of the gospel to the Gentiles was a significant development in the church's mission. One that some had difficulty accepting.

I find it interesting that those who were scattered because of persecution shared salvation to only the Jews. But there were those who were from Cyprus and Cyrene who could not help but tell everyone they met, including Gentiles. So many people were coming to the Lord that the church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to see what was going on. Barnabas in turn went to find the teacher, Paul, at his home in Tarsus and brought him to Antioch.

Paul and Barnabas stayed there a year teaching and sharing the gospel. I can just imagine the excitement that was happening. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, cousins, aunts, uncles, were being told and taught the unsearchable riches of Christ and the salvation that comes through Him alone. When was the last time we were stirred to excitement because someone came to Christ?

PRAYER: Father, give us an excitement about Jesus and what He did on the cross. I pray that I would look at those without Christ and see what You see.

Have a great weekend!

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: Acts 12

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