



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of June 1, 2025

Acts 11:1-18

**1 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, 3 “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” 4 But Peter began and explained it to them in order: 5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. 6 Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ 8 But I said, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ 9 But the voice answered a second time from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, do not call common.’ 10 This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. 11 And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. 12 And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. 13 And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; 14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.’ 15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ 17 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” 18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”**

1. Why do you think prejudice is a greater obstacle to the gospel than persecution, unjust punishment, lack of funding, government oppression or secularism? Why are our prejudices so difficult to overcome?
2. The separation between Jews and Gentiles had its genesis in the Mosaic law that sought to teach God’s people how to live holy separate lives from other pagan cultures. Is it wrong for Christians to live holy separate lives from the world? Explain.
3. Prejudice does not always rear its ugly head through overt animosity or cruelty. Sometimes our prejudices simply make us blind to others. Explain what this “blindness” looks like, and how this can happen even to well-intentioned Christians.
4. Peter was able to convince the Jewish believers in Jerusalem to accept the gentiles into the church because as it says in v.15, “...the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning.” What was so convincing about the Holy Spirit falling upon the new believers in the first century church? Do you think the Holy Spirit still falls upon new believers today? If so, what does it look like today?
5. What do you think “repentance that leads to life” means, and what is its source? Describe this kind of repentance. Can a person be saved without repentance? Explain.