



The Retelling of Cornelius's Story

Acts 11:1-18

Acts 11:1-3 News travels fast

1. News of Gentile Conversions spread to Jerusalem and Judea before Peter got there
 - Peter _____ a few days, perhaps more
 - Peter _____ from Caesarea to Jerusalem (55 Miles) - another week or so
2. "Circumcised Believers" – Jewish Christians reluctant to let go of ceremonial law
 - They believed that if Gentiles were saved, they _____ need to become Jews.
 - Their thinking was in line with Gentiles had become Jews _____ Jesus.
 - This line of thinking would _____ produce the Judaizers of Acts 15 and beyond.
3. The accusation was that Peter was not *acting like* a _____ Jew.

Acts 11:4-17 What – Again – Why?

1. Peter's side of the story is completely told for a _____ time.
2. Cornelius' side of the story is completely told for the _____ time.
(4 if you count the messengers)
3. Was the Holy Spirit in error here? Or is there something **to be learned** from the repetition?
 - a. Prejudice is an issue God wants to be _____ clear on.
(Galatians 3:26-29, Romans 1:16)
 - b. Today's **Christian prejudices** might include tattoos, clothing style, age, finances, education, skin color, political party, nationality, etc.
 - c. Lacking prejudice does _____ mean lacking backbone, doctrine, standards, always being nice, etc.
 - d. _____ from the **WORD of GOD** will guide you in righteous behavior.

Acts 11:18 The Jewish believers response

1. They _____ God's new directive.
2. They _____ God for what He was doing.
3. They _____ at God's words and works.

What can we learn from Luke's telling and re-telling of the Cornelius story?

1. When you are seeking God, God _____ be reaching out to you in return.
2. When God speaks something new, or unusual, He will be very _____, and it will be _____ with His previous messages.
3. _____ is the key to effectiveness in the Kingdom of God.
4. When God repeats himself, stop and ask "Why?". There is _____ a reason.
5. Prejudice and Righteousness are two _____ things.
 - a. Prejudice requires **retreat**, righteousness required **advance**.
 - b. Prejudice come from **man**, righteousness comes from **God**.
 - c. Prejudice **divides**, righteousness **identifies** and **invites**.
6. When God is doing something *new to us*:
 - a. Check it out to see if it aligns with _____.
(music, personal expression, ministry)
 - b. If it's legit – give _____ the glory, praise, and honor for it.
 - c. _____ at what God is doing. Don't get jealous, proud, or legalistic.
7. Never let your preferences or traditions _____ your doctrine and/or required practice. That is **legalism**, and at that point – you are working **against** God.