

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – October 9 – 14th
Doing Life Together – Inside Out Pt. 2

MONDAY: John 3:16, 1 John 2:2

KEY VERSE: Acts 10:10-19

OBSERVATION: God is not merely trying to change Peter's belief about food, but much more importantly his beliefs about people. Peter later says, "It is thought unlawful for a Jewish man to visit or associate with one of another nation. But God has shown me that I shouldn't call any man unholy or unclean." That was the real lesson of the vision. The bag of creatures symbolized the many nations of human beings. God shuns nobody who fears him and does what is right. So now Peter has learned that he should associate with Gentiles not just with Jews. God loves the whole wide world.

TUESDAY: Acts 8:29, Acts 15:7

KEY VERSE: Acts 10:17-20

OBSERVATION: God is sending angels and visions and the voice of his Spirit. At the same time, men are doing things in the ordinary manner, travelling to Joppa, finding the house, calling at the gate. The person who furthers God's cause in the ordinary way is no less respectable and important than the person moved by signs and wonders.

WEDNESDAY: Mark 16:14-16

KEY VERSE: Acts 10:21-22

OBSERVATION: Since God sent an angel to Cornelius, why didn't the angel preach the gospel to Cornelius and instruct him what to do? Why go to all the trouble and inconvenience of sending men to Joppa to fetch Peter? God gave the great commission to human beings. In Cornelius's case, God is taking special action, because he has a point to make. However he still leaves it up to mere mortals to do the preaching. We human beings are allowed the dignity of having an essential role in the great plan of God to save us. We are not merely the souls being saved; we participate in the saving of souls.

THURSDAY: Acts 9:36, Acts 11:12

KEY VERSE: Acts 10:23

OBSERVATION: The very fact that Peter invited them into Simon's home is further proof that Peter truly understood the meaning of the vision, and that it had nothing to do with food, but only about the salvation of the Gentiles. And we have even greater proof that Peter understood the true meaning of the vision, for he freely entered the home of Cornelius.

FRIDAY: Deuteronomy 1:17, Deuteronomy 10:17, Acts 15:9

KEY VERSE: Acts 10:34-43

OBSERVATION: It is exciting to see how Peter packed so much into a short message. We sometimes confuse length with effectiveness. This was certainly not true for the apostle under the direction of the Holy Spirit he was both insightful and succinct. He covers all the necessary ground; who Jesus is, and what Jesus did. With that in mind I want to just point out three things that Cornelius says about Jesus.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: Acts 10:33

OBSERVATION: Contrary to popular opinion, preaching is not a "spectator sport." There needs to be recognition that some participation is expected by those receiving the preaching. It is an active rather than a passive event. In verse thirty-three we see a beautiful example of an active listener in the person of the Roman Centurion and his family: "So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us." (NIV)