



Acts

Lesson 10, Chapter 11

The last mission field the Lord Jesus mentioned in Acts 1:8 when He gave the great commission to the disciples was “the remotest parts of the earth.” They had evangelized Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and now the lands of the Gentiles would be next. The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is known as the faith chapter. In it the writer lists many familiar Old Testament heroes of faith and makes an example of specific times in their lives when they believed God even when it didn’t seem to make sense. When God spoke, they listened, and when He asked them to do something, they did it—though it went against all social and logical norms.

The events in Acts 10-11 would fit in well with the many examples of faith seen in Hebrews 11. Cornelius and Peter could easily take their place in the hall of fame of those who believed God in difficult circumstances. What God was asking them to do was beyond the imagination of any practicing Jew or sane Gentile. But when God speaks, people of faith lay aside their own ways to follow Him no matter the cost. God used these men of faith to fulfill the prophecy given to Abraham several thousand years previous. “...and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:3b

READ CHAPTER 11

1. *When Peter returned to Jerusalem, what was the greatest concern of the believers? Acts 11:1-3; Acts 10:28; John 4:9, 18:28*

2. *What does that tell you about the significance of the inclusion of the Gentiles into the church?*

3. *Why couldn’t the Jews argue the fact that the Gentiles had been included? Acts 11:4-18*

4. *Read Isaiah 42:1-9. How does this prophesy identify the life of Jesus and now the spread of the gospel to the Gentiles?*

5. *Did all the Jews accept the Gentiles? Vs.19-20*



The gospel message was now expanding both geographically and culturally. Phoenicia is a Greek name for the people living in the coastal area north and northwest of Galilee. It means 'dark red' as the people were known for dyeing their hair dark red. Later, the color is associated with natural products coming from there. Phoenicia was not a country or a nation. It was a network of city-states (Tyre, Sidon, Arvad, Byblos, Berytus...) known for their trade outreach to the Mediterranean world. They trace their ancestry back to the Canaanites of the Bronze Age. The Phoenicians continued the culture and religions of the Canaanites with their own adaptation of it. (Sacred Christian Pages)

6. *Find Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch on a map. Read Mark 7:24-30. How does Jesus' interaction in Tyre identify the tension between Jew and Gentile, and how does it also show Jesus breaking down that barrier?*

7. *From verse 18, 21 and 23 what words or phrases are used that describe parts of the process of responding to the gospel message?*

8. *What may be the result when one or more of those are missing in the life of a person claiming to be a Christian?*

9. *Give some information about Barnabas from Acts 4:36-37 and Colossians 4:10. Why was he sent to Antioch?*
10. *Why do you think Barnabas went to look for Saul, and what happened when he found him? Vs. 25*
11. *What prophecy did Agabus give, and how did the disciples respond to that? Vs. 27-30 What other significant prophecy did Agabus give? Acts 21:10-11*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
