

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of February 6th, 2022

Sermon Series: Book of Acts

Sermon: When God Changes What We Believe (Acts 11:1-18)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- On a scale of 1-10, rate your laugh and share why you chose that number.

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

I. Others May Not Understand What God is Doing in You! (v. 1-3)

- When you first went “all in” with Christ, how did the people in your life respond?
- Many Jewish Christians struggled with the idea that Jesus could be the Messiah to non-Jewish people. Have you ever thought that some people could or should not be saved by Jesus? How did God change your heart towards them, or how do you feel Him working on your heart to change?
- Can you think of someone in your life who you never thought could change, yet God transformed them completely? Please share.
- Other than just praying for God to change your mind and heart, what practical steps do you take or would encourage someone else to take to be more accepting of others?

II. Be Bold About What God is Doing in You, and Others (v. 4-16)

- Imagine someone you know who is greedy, sexually immoral, drunken, idolatrous, violent, adulterous, a liar, gluttonous, a God-hater, an unbeliever. How does it make you feel to know that all these people are welcome to come to Jesus so that He can change their lives and deliver them from sin?
- What’s the difference between believing and following Christ?
- Knowing that none of us deserve the Grace of God, how does it affect

your approach to sharing God with others? How do you show the same grace that you've received to others?

- When have you given God the credit for overcoming something in your life? When was a time where you should have given God the glory but you remained silent?
- How do you balance the guardrails you've put in place to protect what God's doing in you, but also reaching out to everyone?
- Share a time that you told God, "No". Are you like Peter where you'd rather obey the laws than Jesus? What if we looked at everyone as the children of God?
- What are the areas of your life where you've used the excuse, "I was born or raised this way?" How have you gotten over this, or why won't you give it up?

III. Let God Be God! We Don't Have to Be. (v. 17-18)

- What kind of ways do we stand in God's way? Are you standing in the way of someone's salvation? How can you get out of their way, get beside them, and lead them toward God?
- Remember: God will make people clean - God will change people's lives. Who can you invite to church that you don't think deserves it? Who can you welcome into your Small Group that you've been afraid of?
- How would it change us if we surrendered our judgment of others to Jesus and just let God open our hearts toward the people He desires to reach?
- How do you provide a safe place for people to meet God? How do you meet people where they're at?

Act On It

Encourage: When God shows you something and helps change the way you believe, think, or act, it is such a blessing. It feels so good to break those chains and turn away from the things that were holding us back from this life of freedom God has given to us. Our joy will make sense to us, but for people who haven't experienced that yet, it's baffling. This sermon was a great reminder that God loves ALL people, and Jesus came to die for ALL sinners. It's not up to us to decide who and who doesn't receive God's grace and life change, but it is up to us to make sure that we don't stand in the way of those who need to receive it. Be bold and share what God's doing in your life and encourage others to do the same. Rejoice when people decide to go "all in" in Jesus instead of questioning it. Instead of being gatekeepers, let's become joy-filled greeters of the Kingdom. Invite, welcome, build relationships, and love. Then, let God do what He does best, make people clean.

Ask: Thank God for all of the amazing things He's done in your life to help make you clean. Ask God for strength and boldness to share God's goodness with others. Pray for God to soften the heart of anyone who may be doubtful of your new heart and to give you opportunities to share what God has been doing in your life. Pray for wisdom and discernment in dealing with skeptics. Pray for help breaking down barriers you've constructed in the path of another person's salvation and to show you how you can walk with that person on their journey to know Christ.

Challenge: Open your eyes this week, and look for someone in your life who needs Jesus. Someone you might have overlooked as unsalvageable. Someone not deserving or able to be saved. Invite that person to coffee, to grab a bite to eat, to church, to your Small Group, to pray with you, to do life with you. Pray to God for the strength and courage to do all of this, and for the wisdom and discernment to help that person to know Jesus. Do it this week!

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, thank you for your word in Acts 11:9 that reads, "What God has made clean, do not call common." Thank you for making us clean. We're so thankful that we get to come to You as we are, and You're the one that changes us. It's not up to us or anyone else, You are the power to change lives. Thank you for being the example of love, teaching us to love everyone. While the world puts labels on everyone, help us to see everyone through Your eyes. God, help us be bold about the things that you're doing in our lives. Remind us that while they may be great gifts to us, Your blessings are meant to bring glory to Your name. Give us boldness to share Your truth and the work you're doing in our lives with others. Move us to places where we can bring Your word to others, and move us out of the path of peoples' salvation we may be blocking. Help us meet and embrace others right where they are. Help us lay all of our doubts and concerns at Your feet and walk away with a peace in knowing that You're in control. Amen.