



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“A.D. Series: Remember!”

Ps. James Lowe - June 14, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Do you have a hobby or interest that you are especially dedicated to? Why does it interest you?
- What sort of public gatherings (besides church) do you enjoy? Why?
- What book would you especially like to read? Why?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

The Book of Acts is especially a book of remembrance. It is a record of some of the Holy Spirit's actions through the early church. The very book was inspired by the Spirit.

John 14:26 records Jesus' teaching: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you" (ESV).

Story upon story in the Book of Acts tells us of the many great works done by followers of Jesus who were led and empowered by the Holy Spirit. These great works of power were all designed by God to bear witness to Jesus, God's beloved Son, and so draw people to him.

One great story is about Cornelius, the Roman centurion. This story illustrates Bethel's three core values of devotion, diversity, and discipleship through the lives of Peter, one of the apostles, and Cornelius.

Acts 10:1-7 (see also Acts 11)

Cornelius wasn't saved, for the angel was sent to him to tell him to send for Peter who would bring him the message of salvation. Yet Cornelius gave to the poor, prayed, and was a devout man who believed in God. And God listened to him and honored him by sending an angel to him.

Cornelius demonstrates that everyone needs to hear the Gospel, even moral people full of good works who believe in God. Everyone needs to hear the message about God's Son and about repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10:8-33

Peter was seeking the Lord in prayer and received a vision of many animals, including ones designated unclean by the Mosaic Law. Jews were not allowed to eat such animals, yet God spoke in the vision to Peter to eat the unclean animals. It was a prophetic, symbolic message telling Peter to tell the message of salvation to non-Jews as well as Jews.

Peter obeyed. He received the non-Jewish servants of the Roman centurion into his home. They came to Peter to entreat him to come to Cornelius' home and speak to him about Jesus. Like Peter we need to be open to God's personal commands. He commands us to minister to all peoples, all ethnicities. There are people all around us and all over the world who are different from us. These differences are not just differences in ethnicity, but also in economic level, education level, age, social status, etc.

Acts 8:34-48

When Peter arrived at Cornelius' house he found a crowd had gathered, Cornelius' entire household. Peter didn't hesitate, but told them about Jesus and God's way of salvation. He laid the only spiritual foundation that can be laid to enter into salvation and an eternal relationship with God; namely, Jesus Christ. God confirmed Peter's message and honored the hunger and faith of Cornelius and his household by pouring out his Spirit upon them all. They were all filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues and praised God. When Peter saw this, he commanded that they all be baptized.

These are the first steps of salvation: responding with repentance and faith to the Gospel of Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and being baptized in water. Peter went on to stay with them and disciple them, grounding them further in the faith.

We are to do likewise: tell others about Jesus, baptize them, pray for them to be filled with the Spirit, and ground them in the faith.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- What do you enjoy doing as an act of seeking God?
- Do you feel drawn to get to know people different than yourself? Who?
- Who helped you follow Jesus in your early faith? Who are you helping follow Jesus?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray that God will give us his burden of love for others, especially those who don't know Jesus.
- Pray that God will open doors to get to know and minister to others different than yourself.
- Pray that God will give you a fresh opportunity to tell someone the Gospel and a great opportunity to disciple someone.