



# Building the church

*A sermon series on the Gospel of Acts*

## Standing in the Way of God

Acts 11:1-18



# Overview of Acts

**Acts 1-8:** ministry to Jews in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria

**Acts 9-11:** Paul's Conversion and Peter's ministry and inclusion of the first Gentile into the church.

**Acts 12-28:** Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles



Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, 3 “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.” 4 But Peter began and explained it to them in order: 5 “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. 6 Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air. 7 And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’

8 But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' 9 But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' 10 This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven. 11 And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea. 12 And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; 14 he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

15 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?" 18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

- Acts 11:1-18







## **Acts 11:1-18**

**Main idea:** We cannot stand in the way of God's purposes.

- **vs 1-3:** Objections Raised
- **vs 4-15:** Peter Recounts the Vision
- **vs 16-18:** Peter Goes To Scripture For Understanding



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- Acts 11:1-3



But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” . . . 5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, “It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.”

- Acts 15:1,5



**The Gospel says to the Gentiles, “You don’t have to become Jews first, and put yourself under the Law of Moses first. Repent and believe, and you can come to Jesus.”**

**But the Gospel also says to the Jewish Christians, “Receive your Gentile brothers and sisters as full members of the family of God. They aren’t inferior to you in any way.”**



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- Acts 11:4-14



## **Acts 11:12**

And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction.

## **Acts 10:15**

“What God has made clean, do not call common.”

## **Acts 10:28**

28 And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.



There is a sense in which the sheet represents the church, having both “kosher” (Jews) and “unkosher” (Gentiles) on it, with no distinction or dividing line between the two.

-David Guzak



“What God has made clean, do not call common.”  
- Acts 10:15



14 And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: 15 There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.” . . . Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, 19 since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) 20 And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. 21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

- Mark 7:14-15, 19-23



“What God has made clean, do not call common.”  
- Acts 10:15



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- Acts 11:13-14



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- Acts 11:15-18



"I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

- Mark 1:8



“What God has made clean, do not call common.”  
- Acts 10:15



The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

- John 3:8



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- Acts 11:18



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