

# Breaking Down Barriers Notes

Acts 11:1-18

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October 24-25, 2020

## Main Point:

### Apostles

1. Were the “sent ones” and referred to the 12 men who \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus.
2. Brothers is a term of endearment used for fellow followers of Jesus and literally means, “from the same \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. Judea refers to the south of Israel, where \_\_\_\_\_ is the capital.
4. The headquarters of the Christian movement in Jerusalem had “\_\_\_\_\_” reports about what had happened in Caesarea.

### Peter went to Jerusalem

1. When he arrived, he was quickly and rapidly \_\_\_\_\_ by the “circumcision party”
  - Literally refers to “those on the side of \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - They were ok with Gentiles becoming Christians \_\_\_\_\_ they first became Jews and were circumcised, if they followed the celebration days, and if they strictly observed the dietary laws.
  - These Hebrew Christians had a hard time \_\_\_\_\_ the hated Gentiles had really repented and received Christ.
  - Criticized means “to \_\_\_\_\_, to take sides against and to separate.”
  - Their biggest beef was not the Gentiles receiving the word of God, but Peter going \_\_\_\_\_ a Gentile home and having a meal.
2. By eating with non-Jewish people, Peter was simply following what Jesus Himself \_\_\_\_\_ for the disciples in Luke 5:30.
  - In Luke 15:2, their complaints about Christ crescendoed.
3. Acts retells the narrative three times.
  - Whenever Scripture repeats something, we need to take \_\_\_\_\_.

### Correctives to Handle Criticism

1. Respond \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 4).
  - Peter explained – which means “to set \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - He did this in order – which means “point by \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - Peter is practicing Proverbs 15:1.
2. Recount \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 5-6).
  - Peter lays out what happened without defaulting to his \_\_\_\_\_ or giving his opinions.
  - He “looked at it closely,” which means he “fastened his eyes by gazing intently and then \_\_\_\_\_ and contemplated what it all meant.”
  - This is an important step when dealing with criticism. Many times, people make assumptions without knowing all the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ personally (vs. 7-10).
  - Peter reflected on how he personally \_\_\_\_\_ back against what God was telling him to do.
  - By reflecting on his personal struggles, he is inviting his listeners to put themselves in his sandals.

- The great sheet was “drawn up again into heaven” shows this vision came from \_\_\_\_\_ Himself and therefore Peter couldn’t disregard it.
4. Refer to \_\_\_\_\_ work (vs. 11-15).
- Peter didn’t get \_\_\_\_\_ or angry.
  - He points the listeners to how God was weaving His way and His \_\_\_\_\_ through circumstances and His sovereign timing.
  - “How can anyone argue with what the Lord has done?”
  - Six ways God did His work.
    - He points to God’s sovereign \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 11)
    - It was the \_\_\_\_\_ who told him to go (vs. 12a).
    - He did not act \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 12b).
    - An \_\_\_\_\_ went into the house of Cornelius and gave a command (vs. 13).
    - The message Peter was to share was all about \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 14).
    - The Holy Spirit was \_\_\_\_\_ to the Gentile believers just as He had been given to the Jews at Pentecost (vs. 15).
5. Remember \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 16).
- Peter brought God’s word to bear on the situation.
  - Everything that happened at Cornelius’ house lined up with Scripture.
  - The Scriptures call us to \_\_\_\_\_ over 100 times.
  - In the Bible, “remember” is not limited to cognitive recall, but also implies \_\_\_\_\_ in accordance with what is remembered.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ with people (vs. 17).
- The word “if” can be translated “\_\_\_\_\_.”
  - When they believed in Christ, they received the \_\_\_\_\_ same Spirit without having to jump through any holy hoops or Jewish religious rituals (John 6:47).
  - Using a question, Peter is forcing his listeners to actively \_\_\_\_\_.
  - We are either standing in God’s way or we are \_\_\_\_\_ in His ways (Daniel 4:35).
7. \_\_\_\_\_ in the results (vs. 18).
- It’s important to \_\_\_\_\_ God with the responses of those who have been criticizing you.
  - Their response is their \_\_\_\_\_ before God.
  - To “fall silent” means “to acquiesce by ceasing to \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - They paused, they pondered, and then they \_\_\_\_\_ God.

### Call to Action

1. We are dirty, vile, and wicked and need to be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Isaiah 1:18 invites us to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The word “come” is an imperative or a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - It is something we must do \_\_\_\_\_ – come now.
3. Reason together
  - It is the idea of \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
  - No matter how stained with sin you are, if you respond and repent of your sins, He will make you “as white as \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - Rituals and ceremonies won’t \_\_\_\_\_ you up.
  - Only the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ can cleanse you.