

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.