



You Matter

SERMON NOTES AND DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Acts 10:9–16 (NIV)

⁹ About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, “**Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.**”

¹⁴ “Surely not, Lord!” Peter replied. “I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.”

¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, “**Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.**”

¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

Sermon Outline

Introduction

- Conversion is Hard!

See the Challenge

1. One of the most important Moments of Church History
 - Who belongs?
 - How do we belong?

2. Feel what Peter Felt

Recognize the Question

1. Is it worth it?

See People through Jesus Eyes

Admit that Talk is Cheap

1. We will Prioritize Young People and Families Everywhere
2. We will Open Doors to Young People to Become Load Bearing Pillars of the Church
3. We will Partner and Encourage Parents in their Work of Discipling their Children

Conclusion

Discussion Questions

Sharing Life Together

1. Share about one of the harder steps you have had to take in following Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life.
2. If you could relive one moment with your kids or parents, what would it be and why?

Reflecting on the Message Together

1. **G.K. Chesterton famously said, “Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried.” Do you agree or disagree with this assessment, and why or why not?**
2. **What do you think Peter was feeling when the Lord told him to kill and eat an unclean animal?**
3. **Has there been a time or times in your life where, like Peter, you knew the Lord was calling you to do something but you didn’t want to do it because it felt hard and uncomfortable? What are lessons to learn through these faith-stretching experiences?**
4. **A close friend who is a non-believer finally tells you, “I think the cost of following Jesus is too high, there is just no way I would let him be the leader of my life.” What would you share with them about your willingness to submit to Jesus as the Lord of your life?**
5. **What are ways you see our church family prioritizing young people and families?**
6. **What are ways you see we need to step up our prioritization of young people and families?**
7. **What do you think is going to be the hardest thing we will have to change in order to demonstrate that we aren’t just talking about prioritizing young people and families but we are committed to making them a top priority of our church?**
8. **What excites you about leaning into this challenge?**
9. **How did God speak to you through this message?**

Meditating on the Scriptures

Read Acts 10:1-33

1. What characteristics does Luke use to describe Cornelius?
 - a. Why do you think good actions and character tend to help people hear God's call on their life?

2. Why did Peter stumble and refuse to follow the direction given by his Lord in verse 14?
 - a. Read Luke 22:31-34 & John 21:15-17. The vision was repeated three times. How do you think this would have personally affected Peter (The rock on whom the church would be built)?

3. As a Jew, what do you think Peter was willing to lose with respect to other Jews in order to trust in the vision given by his Lord (See Verse 28)?
 - a. Brennan Manning writes that self-pity is the enemy of the trust. How can feeling sorry for ourselves get in the way of following the Lord with the same commitment and trust as Peter?

4. Besides self-pity, what other factors can cause Christians to hold prejudices and fail to follow Jesus with full devotion?

5. Why is Peter able to overcome his prejudices and faithfully follow Jesus? What are the characteristics and attitudes in this event that demonstrate his Spiritual maturity?

6. What ways do we see God working through prayer in this event?