

S E R M O N O U T L I N E

# 「A CHURCH THAT BREAKS BARRIERS」

B R I G H T O N C O M M U N I T Y C H U R C H

**A CHURCH THAT BREAKS  
BARRIERS**

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<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

<sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

<sup>39</sup> 'We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup> He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> 'Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptised with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.' <sup>48</sup> So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

**ACTS 10**

## **#1. OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD'S HEART**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

ACTS 10

<sup>7</sup> The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

1 SAMUEL 16

## **#2. OVERCOME OUR RESISTANCE**

<sup>14</sup> 'Surely not, Lord!' Peter replied. 'I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.' <sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' <sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

ACTS 10

<sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticised him <sup>3</sup> and said, 'You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.'

ACTS 11

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
<sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him,  
and he will make your paths straight

PROVERBS 3

### #3. OBEY THE HOLY SPIRIT

<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. <sup>45</sup> The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup> 'Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptised with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.' <sup>48</sup> So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

ACTS 10

<sup>14</sup> For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup> The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

ROMANS 8

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What barriers or biases might prevent you from seeing people the way God sees them? How can you begin to align your heart more closely with God's?**
- 2. What forms of “resistance” do you see in your own life when it comes to obeying God's call — fear, fatigue, familiarity, or something else? What might it look like to surrender that to God this week?**
- 3. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to step out in obedience today? What's one practical step you can take to respond to that prompting — whether in missions, service, or personal witness?**