



DON'T
be so
STINGY

S E R M O N G U I D E

Don't Be So Stingy

Acts 10

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

I truly believe God is saying to the church, "Don't be so stingy." What good is it to draw attention to the good God that we have, if we're not going to tell everyone about Him? Instead, we should be eager to share. We should have the mentality that the grace and love of God that we've experienced is so great that we want as many people as possible to experience it too. So don't be stingy. Don't keep the good news to yourself. Instead, share the love, grace, and mercy of God with others so that they might seek out a relationship with the Father as well.

KEY POINTS

1. We must be willing to break our biases.

Bias and prejudice aren't words that are explicitly used in scripture, but scripture directly addresses the topics nonetheless. Bias is when you project your preconceptions or prejudices against people who are different than you are. It's the reason some businesses fail because they don't market their products to different groups of people. It's the reason tensions arise when people don't cultivate the ability to speak to people who are different than they are. And it's the reason some churches don't grow because they fail to adapt their methods to the realities of a diverse world.

Too often we allow our biases block our blessing. Instead of being openminded and expanding our horizons, we turn up our noses and act as if we are better than the people we are trying to reach. But there's a flaw in that form of reasoning. Just because people don't fit your profile of acceptability, does not mean they don't know God. And that's the problem with the church. Rather than loving people and showing compassion to people we judge them. There's nothing worse than a judgmental Christian.

At the end of the day, it's not our job to judge others. That is the Lord's job and His alone. Only He knows the contents of someone's heart. Our job is point others to the Lord so that they might have a relationship with Him and experience the same love, grace, mercy, and compassion we've experienced from God.

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2. We must be willing to leave our comfort zones.

Something incredible happens when followers of Jesus step out of their comfort zone and step into the messy reality of this world we live in. Sure it might be easier to stay within the walls of the church where we feel comfortable and safe, but if we never step outside of our comfort zone, we're missing out in ministering to people who will never set foot in a church.

I firmly believe that when we step out, ministry goes forth, the Word is preached, the Holy Ghost falls, and people get saved. Rather than them coming to the church, the church goes to them.

3. We must be willing to share our story.

One thing I really admire about Peter is that Peter was determined not to allow anything to prevent him from preaching the gospel. He had been given good news, and he wanted to tell someone about it. Peter took the mic and told his testimony—about how the Lord had spoken to him, and how God was using him to preach to those at the time who were outside the church.

Before you know it, the gospel went forth, the Holy Ghost fell, and people got saved. Before you know it, those on the outside were all of a sudden on the inside. Before you know it, the same power that fell on the Jews at the beginning, is the same power that fell on the Gentiles at the end. And it all happened because Peter was convinced that he had something so good, so great, so powerful, that he just couldn't keep it to himself.

That is exactly how we ought to be. When we think about what God has done for us, and how good God has been to us, we shouldn't keep it to ourselves. If God has been good, if God has made a way, if God has opened doors, you ought not be afraid to tell somebody.

NOTES

No Limits with Pastor Delman

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How have your personal biases kept you from being stingy with the gospel in the past? What can you learn from that experience?
2. Do you feel God nudging you to leave your comfort zone right now? What is holding you back?
3. When was the last time you shared your story? If you've never shared your testimony before, who is someone you can share it with this week?
