

## A. Sermon Slides

Slide 1: Title

Conversion

Acts 10-11:18

Slide 2:

Acts 10:25–28; 34-45 (ESV)

When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.” And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

Slide 3:

Angel's Communication to Cornelius:

1) "I see you, and know you."

2) "This is what you need to do."

Slide 4:

The importance of the Jewish dietary laws

Slide 5:

Galatians 3:28 (ESV)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Slide 6:

CONVERSION

"Re=purposing"

"Realizing who we really are."

Slide 7:

God is committed to your conversion

Slide 8:

God is converting TWO lives in this text

God's Communication to Peter:

1) "I see and know you."

2) "This is what I need you to do."

Slide 9:

Both men are unclean and both men have been called by God, "clean."

Slide 10:

John 13:36 (ESV)

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, *but you will follow afterward.*"

Slide 11:

The process that brings us into the Kingdom is the same process by which God brings the Kingdom into us.

Slide 12:

"There was a boy called Eustace Clarence Scrubb, and he almost deserved it."

Slide 13:

Aslan: "You will have to let me undress you."

Eustace: "The very first tear He made was so deep that I thought it had gone right into my heart.

And when He began pulling the skin off, it hurt worse than anything I've ever felt.

Well, He peeled the beastly stuff right off - just as I thought I had done it myself the other 3 times, only they hadn't hurt.

And there was I smooth and soft as a peeled switch and smaller than I had been. Then He caught hold of me and threw me into the water.

It smarted like anything but only for a moment - after that it became perfectly delicious, and then I saw why.

I'd turned into a boy again."

Slide 14:

He will have to undress you too

## **B. Group Discussion**

1) Read the story from Acts 10. Continue to 11:18. What are some of the themes and messages that could be looked at from this text? Where would you "dig in" if you were teaching from this text?

2) The Jewish dietary laws kept the people of Israel separate from the surrounding nations. Why was that important? What may have been some of the false thinking that came from those laws? (Consider how Peter would have thought of a Gentile)

3) In what way was Cornelius "closer" to God than Peter? In what way was Peter "closer" to God than Cornelius? What does Cornelius need through the Peter experience? What does Peter need through the Cornelius experience?

4) How would you describe "conversion?" How is it both immediate and a life-long process? What are some of the common and identical characteristics in someone who is coming into the Kingdom, and in someone still being transformed inside the Kingdom? Can you see some similar characteristics in Cornelius and in Peter?

5) How are you being converted?

6) Do you believe that God is committed to your conversion? (Philippians 1:6)

7) How do we "partner" with Him in our necessary conversion? (Philippians 2:12,13)

8) How can we pray for one another?