

UNSTOPPABLE

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS



Acts 11:1-3

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“Not in terms of violating OT commands but in the sense of not following the later customs of strict Jewish traditions about uncleanness. The Jewish traditions of purity made it virtually impossible for them to associate with Gentiles without becoming ritually unclean.”

~ ESV Study Bible (Acts 10:28)

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Luke 15:1-2

[1] Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. [2] And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

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It took four successive hammer blows of divine revelation before his racial and religious prejudice was overcome, as he explains to the Jerusalem church:

- 1) Divine vision (4-10)
- 2) Divine command (11-12)
- 3) Divine preparation (13-14)
- 4) Divine action (15-17)

(John Stott, Acts, p. 174)

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Acts 11:4-10

[4] But Peter began and explained it to them in order: [5] "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision, something like a great sheet descending, being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to me. [6] Looking at it closely, I observed animals and beasts of prey and reptiles and birds of the air.

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Acts 11:4-10

[7] And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' [8] But I said, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing common or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' [9] But the voice answered a second time from heaven, 'What God has made clean, do not call common.' [10] This happened three times, and all was drawn up again into heaven.

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[11] And behold, at that very moment three men arrived at the house in which we were, sent to me from Caesarea.

[12] And the Spirit told me to go with them, making no distinction. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house.

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Acts 11:13-14

[13] And he told us how he had seen the angel stand in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon who is called Peter; [14] he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household.'

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Acts 11:15-17

[15] As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. [16] And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' [17] If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

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Acts 10:44-46

[44] While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. [45] 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. [46] For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God...

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Acts 11:18

When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

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3. Unity in the church requires us to be humble enough to surrender our preferences to God's priorities.

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