

HEART OF A SEEKER

Pastor Chad Gilligan | February 27, 2022

I. INTRODUCTION TO A NEW SEASON

A. New Seasons Emerge from Fresh Encounters with the Holy Spirit

*Heavenly Father,
In This New Season
May Your Holy Spirit
Bring To Me...
The Heart of a Seeker*

Acts 11:1 The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

Acts 11:2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him

B. New seasons will often be met with obstacles.

II. SIX OBSTACLES TO A NEW SEASON

Acts 11:3 and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

1. The Opinions of Others

- **Do not allow the unhealthy opinions of others distract you from the new season God is bringing to your life.**

Acts 11:4-8 Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’ “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’

2. A Made Up Mind

- **A seeking heart will lead to an open mind.**

Acts 11:9-10 “The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

3. Unfair Factors

- **Holding on to past wrongs means your hands are closed to future blessings.**

Acts 11:11-12 “Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house.

4. Personal Prejudice

Galatians 2:11-12 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

Matthew 23:12 For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

- **Putting others down keeps you from being lifted up.**

Acts 11:13-14 He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’

5. Identity of Insignificance

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Acts 11:15-17 “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?”

6. Compulsion To Control

- **Who holds the steering wheel of your life?**

Acts 11:18 When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”