



Small Group/Family Study Guide

Series: **NOT ANOTHER RELIGION**

## Sermon 12: WHEN BOUNDARIES ARE BROKEN

The People Religion Rejects but Jesus Welcomes Home!

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### ◆ INTRODUCTION

In WHEN BOUNDARIES ARE BROKEN, PT walks through Acts 11 and confronts the invisible lines religious people draw around race, politics, culture, denomination, familiarity, and even generosity. God had already saved Cornelius and poured out the Holy Spirit, but the Jerusalem believers still had to recognize that grace had reached people they once avoided. This study challenges us to distinguish biblical conviction from personal discomfort, welcome people without weakening the Gospel, make Jesus visible enough that "Christian" describes our likeness and not merely our label, and accept our responsibility to help carry the ministry God has placed us in.

### ◆ KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Acts 11:1–18** — Peter is criticized for entering a Gentile home. He recounts the vision, the Spirit's command, and the Holy Spirit falling on Cornelius's household. The believers stop objecting and praise God for granting the Gentiles repentance that leads to life.
- **Acts 11:19–26** — The scattered believers preach Jesus in Antioch, and many people turn to the Lord. Barnabas recognizes God's grace in an unfamiliar place, brings Saul into the work, and the disciples are first called Christians.
- **Acts 11:27–30** — When famine is predicted, the disciples decide to send help "as each one was able." Grace turns people once separated by culture into a family willing to share responsibility and carry one another's burdens.

### ◆ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. PT said, "Religious people can draw a line God never drew and then defend it as if the Bible put it there." Which line are Christians most likely to defend today—race, politics, denomination, culture, class, age, or something else? Which one are you personally most tempted to draw? (Acts 11:1–3) **(We DO NOT argue politics in our small groups! NEVER! EVER! DON'T YOU DO IT! DON'T YOU DO IT!)**
2. The Jerusalem believers had experienced Pentecost, miracles, and powerful prayer, yet they still carried a blind spot. Where might you be spiritually passionate but still prejudiced, narrow, defensive, or unwilling to be corrected? What would it take for you to admit it? (Acts 11:15–18)
3. PT said, "Sometimes what we call conviction is our discomfort with something unfamiliar." When have you used spiritual language to defend a preference? How can you tell the difference between a conviction grounded in Scripture and discomfort grounded in familiarity?
4. Peter obeyed God, but some believers assumed he was wrong because they disliked his method and its outcome. When God works outside your preferred style, tradition, or demographic, do you examine the fruit—or immediately criticize the method? (Acts 11:2–4, 15–17)
5. Peter asked, "Who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" What opinion, tradition, resentment, or fear could place you in the doorway of something God is doing? Are you willing to stop defending it if the evidence of grace contradicts you? (Acts 11:17–18)
6. PT's message insists that widening our welcome must never weaken the Gospel. Which failure is more tempting for you: using truth as an excuse for contempt, or using grace as an excuse to avoid truth? How can we love people from other religions without pretending every belief about Jesus is equally true? (Acts 10:39–43)
7. Antioch called the disciples "Christians" because their connection to Jesus was visible. If people judged Christianity only by your attitude, social media, conversations, spending, and relationships, what would they believe Jesus is like? (Acts 11:26; John 13:34–35)

8. PT said some people love the photograph of a diverse church but resist the table when unfamiliar people begin sharing influence. Do you want diversity only in attendance, or are you willing to listen to, learn from, and serve beside people unlike you?
9. Nobody has to give money to be welcomed at CrossPointe—but welcome and shared responsibility are not the same thing. Are you enjoying ministry while expecting somebody else to fund it, staff it, and carry it? What does your current generosity reveal about how deeply you believe in the mission? (*Acts 11:27–30*)
10. The disciples did not all give the same amount, but they accepted the same responsibility. As CrossPointe prepares to make more room for KidsPointe, SQUAD, worship, and people far from God, what would it look like for you to pray, listen, obey, and respond “according to your ability”? (*Acts 11:29*)

#### ◆ PT’s BEST QUOTES

- *“Grace comforts the excluded, but it also confronts the comfortable.”*
- *“Pentecost had filled their mouths with other languages—but grace was still working to enlarge their hearts for other people.”*
- *“Sometimes what we call conviction is our discomfort with something unfamiliar.”*
- *“The Gospel does not erase culture. It removes culture from the throne.”*
- *“The name Christian should be more than our label. It should be our likeness.”*
- *“They didn’t all give the same amount, but they all accepted the same responsibility.”*

#### ◆ ACTION PROMPTS

**AUDIT YOUR LINES:** Ask the Holy Spirit to identify one boundary you have drawn around people because of politics, race, culture, denomination, history, or discomfort. Name it honestly and surrender it.

**CROSS ONE COMFORT ZONE:** This week, begin a real conversation, share a meal, extend an invitation, or serve beside someone you would not normally choose. Listen before assuming you understand their story.

**HOLD GRACE AND TRUTH TOGETHER:** Have one conversation about Jesus in which you refuse both compromise and contempt. Speak clearly about the Gospel while treating the other person with dignity and genuine love.

**MAKE JESUS VISIBLE:** Choose one relationship or online space where your attitude has not looked like Christ. Apologize, change your language, forgive, or respond differently enough that the name “Christian” makes sense again.

**ACCEPT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:** Pray honestly about your time, service, influence, and finances. Ask, “What has God placed in my hands to help carry His mission?” Then take one measurable step instead of waiting for somebody else to carry the cost.

#### ◆ CLOSING PRAYER

Father, show us every line we have drawn that You never authorized. Expose prejudice, cultural superiority, denominational arrogance, political hatred, resistance to change, and every place where personal discomfort has disguised itself as spiritual conviction. Give us the humility to stop arguing when the evidence of Your grace is standing in front of us.

Teach us to welcome people without weakening the Gospel. Keep Jesus, His cross, and His resurrection at the center of everything we believe and everything we do. Make our love courageous, our truth compassionate, and our lives so visibly connected to Christ that the name “Christian” describes our likeness and not merely our label.

Give us open hearts, open hands, and the courage to carry our part of the mission. Prepare CrossPointe to make room for more children, students, families, and people who are far from God. Use our time, gifts, influence, and resources so the people religion rejects can be welcomed home by Jesus. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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