



HOW THE GOSPEL GOT OUT

Peter and the Spreading Mission (Acts 9:32-11:18)

“There have been, in the last century or so, many movements which have claimed to be spirit-driven, but which have resulted in all kinds of shameful behaviour. There is a constant need, particularly among Christian leaders, to be anchored in prayer, humility and deep attention to the word of God and particularly (as here) the words of Jesus.”
(N T Wright)

The Story So Far....

- The Church, founded at Pentecost, is growing and learning how to “be” in its cultural context
- The Gospel is spreading outside Jerusalem, partly because of persecution
- The Kingdom continues to be revealed through miracles and the proclamation of Jesus
- There is rapid social change going on in the Empire

Peter in Joppa

- Dorcas raised from the dead
- The Vision and the Visit to Cornelius
- Peter learns that God is taking him way outside his theological comfort zone

Peter’s Return to Jerusalem

- The confrontation with The Circumcised
- Since salvation was through the Jews, shouldn’t people wanting salvation experience it as a Jew?

And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.” (Acts 11:15-18)



How Do We Know What Is Right?

- The _____ Test
 - Do they believe _____?
 - P _____
 - T _____
 - C _____
 - Do they _____?

- The _____ Test
 - Are they displaying _____

- The _____ Test
 - Are they displaying _____

What Does Our Mission Look Like?

- Are people _____?
- Do we _____?
- Do we _____?

Questions for Discussion and Further Reflection

1. Was there a particular part of the sermon that grabbed your attention? What was it? Why was it significant to you?
2. What are the challenges facing the church in our Western culture?
3. Pick a theological challenge that the church is facing right now, and run it through the three tests: Orthodoxy, Fruit and Kingdom. How does it stack up?
4. Where have we “given in” to cultural pressure? Where do we “hold on too tight”?
5. In what ways do we convert people to church rather than Jesus?
6. Spend time together discussing each of the three points under the “What Does Our Mission Look Like” heading?
7. Spend time praying for the Whyalla community. Pray for Revival. Ask God to show you what your part in his mission is.