



THRIVING THROUGH CHANGE

ACTS: Church 101

Acts 11:1-18

Sunday, December 5, 2021

WHAT IS CHANGE?

FACING CHANGE IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Acts 11:1 (NASB) *Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. ² And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, ³ saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."*

LESSON #1 – EXPECT Reasonable and Unreasonable Resistance 11:1-3

LESSON #2 – Lay Out the Facts and Your Experience CLEARLY. 11:4-10

Acts 11:4 (NASB) *But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying...*

Acts 11:5 (NASB) *"I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object coming down like a great sheet lowered by four corners from the sky; and it came right down to me, ⁶ and when I had fixed my gaze on it and was observing it I saw the four-footed animals of the earth and the wild beasts and the crawling creatures and the birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.' ¹⁰ This happened three times, and everything was drawn back up into the sky.*

LESSON #3 – Highlight God's INVOLVEMENT. 11:11-16

Acts 11:11 (NASB) *"And behold, at that moment three men appeared at the house in which we were staying, having been sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them without misgivings. These six brethren also went with me and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he reported to us how he had seen the angel standing in his house, and saying, 'Send to Joppa and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here; ¹⁴ and he will speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning."*

Luke 11:1 (NIV) *One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."*

Myth #1: Prayer is based on TIME.

Matthew 6:5 (NIV) *"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in*

full. ⁶ *But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*”

Myth #2: Prayer is based on the AMOUNT of words we use.

Matthew 6:7 (NIV) *And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.*

Myth #3: Prayer is based on my NEEDS.

Matthew 6:8 (NIV) *Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*

Biblical prayer is essentially oriented around ISSUES – issues relating to God the Father.

Matthew 6:9 (NIV) *"This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name [or, let Your name be set apart]..."*

- The first issue...

Psalm 103:10 *"He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust."*

- The second issue is...

Matthew 6:10 (NIV) *"... Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

LESSON #4 – LAND the Plane 11:16-17

Acts 11:16 (NASB) *"And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"*

LESSON #5 – GAUGE the Response. 11:18

Acts 11:18 (NASB) *When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life."*

CHANGE ON THE HORIZON: Our Application