

ACTS STUDY QUESTIONS, WEEK 4

Monday, Acts 9:32-42

1. Experiencing serious illness in others or in our own life can really test our faith. How do you tend to respond when this occurs? Do you view illness as unfair or as punishment?
2. Dorcas was remembered as much for her service to her neighbors as for being miraculously raised from the dead. Reflect on your own witness and what you think people will remember you for.

Tuesday, Acts 10:1-23

1. What details in this passage reflect Cornelius' genuine interest in God and spiritual matters?
2. What did the birds and animals in the sheet in Peter's vision collectively represent? Are there certain persons or kind of persons that make you uncomfortable to be around? Ask God to help you understand why and reflect on steps you can take to help you overcome that discomfort.

Wednesday, Acts 10:24-48

1. What feelings do you have when you think about talking to someone about God? What is the cause of those feelings? Is it easier for you to talk to acquaintances or good friends about spiritual matters?
2. When Peter entered Cornelius' house, vs. 25 says that Cornelius fell at Peter's feet in apparent worship. (Peter prevented him from doing it in verse 26.) Why is there the tendency to put spiritual leaders on a so-called "pedestal"? What are inherent dangers of doing that? Have you ever been disappointed by a spiritual leader? Was that disappointment their fault or the fault of your own expectations of them?
3. If you needed to, could you explain how to become a follower of Christ to a seeker? Imagine yourself talking to someone about the Good News. What would you say? What would you want to include in your explanation?

Thursday, Acts 11:1-30

1. Peter had spent three years walking and talking with Jesus during his earthly ministry. Yet, even here, Peter was learning new lessons about the way God works. Reflect on what God has taught you about His purpose and plans through your interactions with seekers and non-believers.

2. Peter admitted that his Jewish culture almost prevented him from accepting Cornelius' invitation and ultimately sharing the Good News with him. Are there aspects of your own culture that could actually be getting in your way of following Christ?
3. Like the church at Antioch, First Baptist is blessed by a rich ethnic diversity. How has worshipping with persons of different backgrounds enriched your own spiritual growth?
4. Our church is about to send a volunteer team to Mexicali, July 1-4, to help with construction of a local seminary and to encourage the leadership. Take a moment to pray for this mission project and for those who have volunteered to go. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to join that team and go yourself.

Friday, Acts 12:1-25

1. Contrast the attitudes of Peter and Herod. How does Luke describe each person? How does Peter's example encourage you in your own faith-walk?
2. The recent death of James, the many guards assigned to Peter, and the earnest prayers by the church serve to emphasize the seriousness of Peter's situation when he was arrested and put into prison by Herod, who clearly wanted to see him dead. Imagine you are at that prayer meeting (vs. 5). How do you think the believers were praying? What part does prayer play in your life when circumstances are serious?
3. Some people are asserting that our ability to freely worship and serve God is being hampered these days. How does this passage speak to that fear? Did persecution prevent the spread of the Good News? (see verse 24)

This week's questions were written by FBCP's Douglas Shenton. Doug and his wife, Becky, joined FBC last fall. Doug is from the East Coast and has served as a pastor and as a stateside cross-cultural missionary. More recently, Doug showed his servant heart when he volunteered in the church's office and went to Tijuana, Mexico, on a mission trip. Please make sure you thank Doug for his efforts in putting these questions together.