

Book of Acts 10-12

LeRoy Eims

I. Introduction.

II. Angels are not allowed to give the message of God - this is reserved solely for us.

A. The gospel of God has been committed to us. (1 Thessalonians 2:7)

B. God's only access to the hearts of men is the bridge of the gospel.

C. This priceless treasure has been committed to us.

III. Peter continues to give himself to prayer where God leads him to preach to the Gentiles. This is a mystery that has been kept secret since the world began. (Romans 16:25, Colossians 3:11, Revelation 7:9, Colossians 1:25-29, Ephesians 3:3)

IV. The men in the book of Acts would rather be vilified than deified. (Isaiah 42:8, Acts 14:14, Acts 3)

A. God is no respecter of persons. However at the time of Jesus the Pharisees thought otherwise thanking God that he was not a Gentile, a slave or a woman.

B. Jesus treated people like people and they were not used to that.

V. Miracles were used for validation among the Jews showing that the Gentiles were brought into the God's family. (Acts 1:8, Acts 8, Acts 10)

VI. Laymen were the ones out sharing the word and preaching the Lord Jesus.

A. The exhortation to new Christians was to cling close to Jesus.

B. They believed, turned and followed, and clung closely to Jesus as they followed Him.

C. The name "Christian" was born at Antioch out of a group of laymen.

VII. The believers shared their goods among themselves. (Proverbs 3:27)

A. People do not give as they should because of extravagance, covetousness, and ignorance.

B. When there was a need the believers sent the best that they had mutually.

VIII. They prayed a "stretching" prayer for Peter.

A. It is not humanly impossible to escape with sixteen guards.

B. Peter was known for wandering demonstrating further the need for this prayer.

C. Herod, his threat, was ultimately eaten by worms.

Application questions

1. What examples are there of layman making an impact for God's kingdom in the Bible? Is this the norm?

2. Can angels preach the gospel? How is this an illustration of God's desire to use all people?

3. Prayer is important in the book of Acts? How is your prayer life strong? In what ways would you like to improve it and how?
