

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of

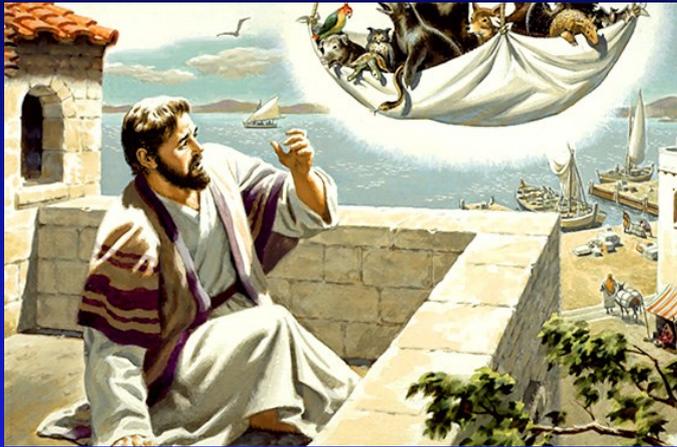


SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 28

Peter & Cornelius – Gospel to the Gentiles – Part 2

Acts 11:1-18



**Now the apostles and the brethren who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.
(Acts 11:1)**

Observation: How did they hear so fast ... or was it so fast...? Maybe Peter stayed in Caesarea for a while before returning to Jerusalem. (see Acts 10:48) There must have been the need for follow-up and some basic beginner discipleship or the starting of such. That takes some time.

The Jewish Yeshua Believers in Judea understood that Gentiles “received the Word of God” ... that meant Gentiles became believers in the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the World. But I am not sure that they had the whole story until Peter told them it.

² And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised (i.e. Jewish) took issue with him, ³ saying, “You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them.”

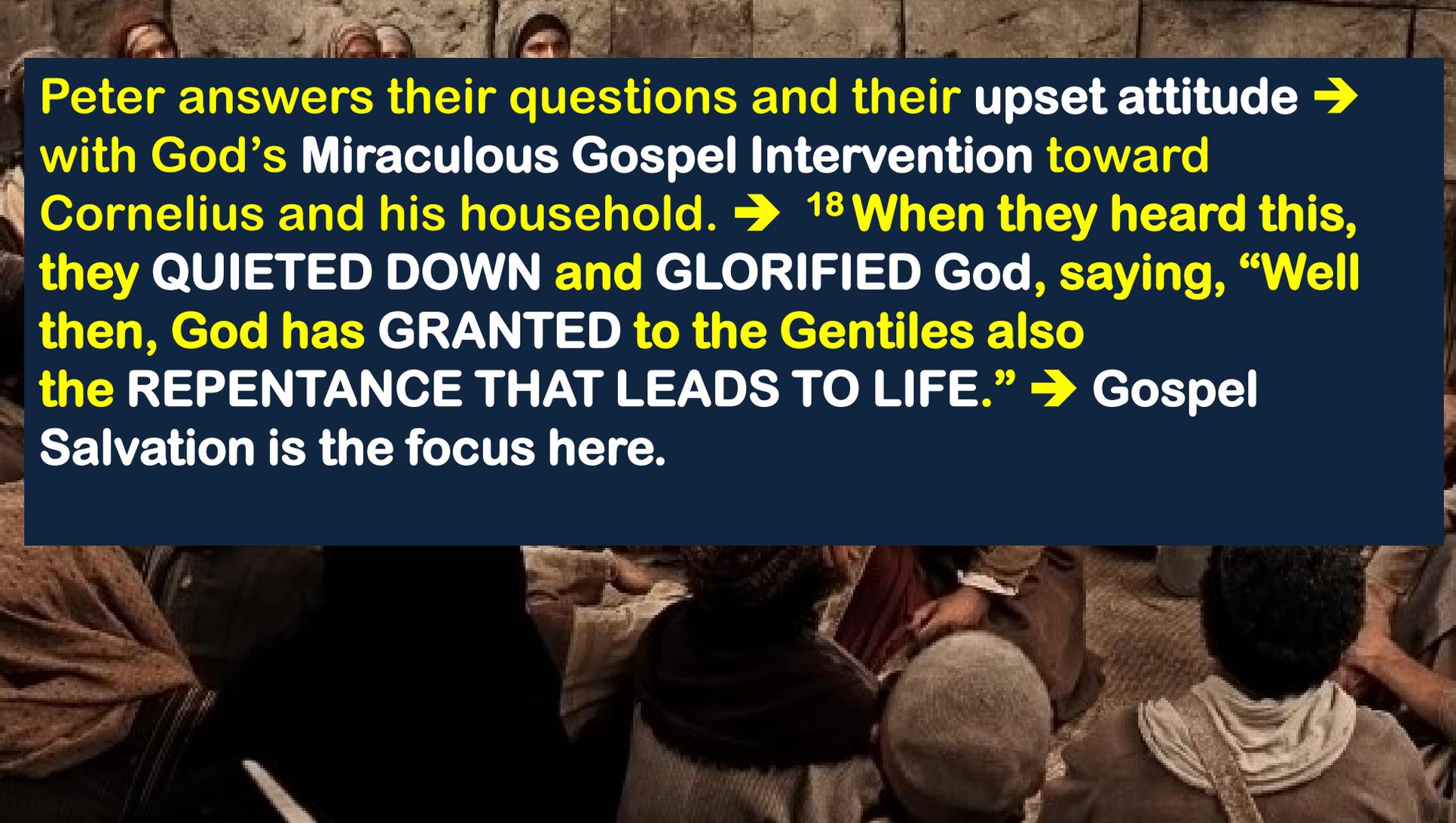
Traditions are engrained deeply – prejudices, etc. We can see that these Yeshua believers, these Jewish background believers, still had deep cultural issues with Gentiles. Eating with them, associating with them, being close to them, lodging with them, etc.

What CHAINS like this might we have, today, that hold us back from sharing God’s Word with the lost world around us? God had to send a Vision to Peter and Speak to Him (reference Acts 10) and a corresponding vision to Cornelius (the Gentile Roman Centurion) to get Peter to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles for the first time.

4 But Peter began speaking and proceeded to explain to them in orderly sequence, saying, **5** “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. **11** 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. 1⁶ 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?" 1⁸ 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."



Peter answers their questions and their upset attitude → with God's Miraculous Gospel Intervention toward Cornelius and his household. → ¹⁸ 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." → Gospel Salvation is the focus here.

Peter explains to them that God is the one who orchestrated this from start to finish and Peter likens what happened to Cornelius and his household to what happened in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost to **original 120 – AT THE BEGINNING (see Acts 2) →**

¹⁶ 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?” → SALVATION → BORN AGAIN → In CHRIST

Lessons Learned:

1. Mission is from God Himself, it is His MISSION – His Harvest.

In fact, the whole Bible is a Missions Handbook on our Mission to reach the Lost, How to Disciple those that become followers/disciples of Christ, and so on ...

From Genesis 10 and onward, we see God dividing and conquering ... His Mission To Reach the LOST

**Peoples, Nations, Tongue (Languages), and Tribes –
after the Tower of Babel (Genesis 10 & 11)**

******* GOD is the Initiator of the Gospel to the Nations ...**

Matt. 9:35-38; 28:18-20 *****

³⁵ Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

³⁶ Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The HARVEST is plentiful, but the WORKERS ARE FEW. ³⁸ Therefore BESEECH (BEG / PLEAD with) the LORD OF THE HARVEST to send out workers into HIS HARVEST.”

2. God **CHOSE** a people group: through Abram (Abraham → Isaac → Jacob) to bless all the other people groups on earth.

→ The Blessing of Salvation. The Messianic People
Jesus said, "... Salvation is of the Jews ..." John 4:22

God's aim and purpose for choosing Israel (Exodus 19:6) was to use Israel to reach the Gentiles. Let's look at some Passages in Scripture that show this.

a. Genesis 12:3 (Promise to Abraham and his genetic descendants)
"... and in you all the **FAMILIES** of the earth will be blessed."

(a parallel to Genesis 12:3 – from Isaac to Jacob → Genesis 27:29)

b. Isaiah 49:6 (read the whole context on your own)

Israel was to be the Light (of God) to the nations -

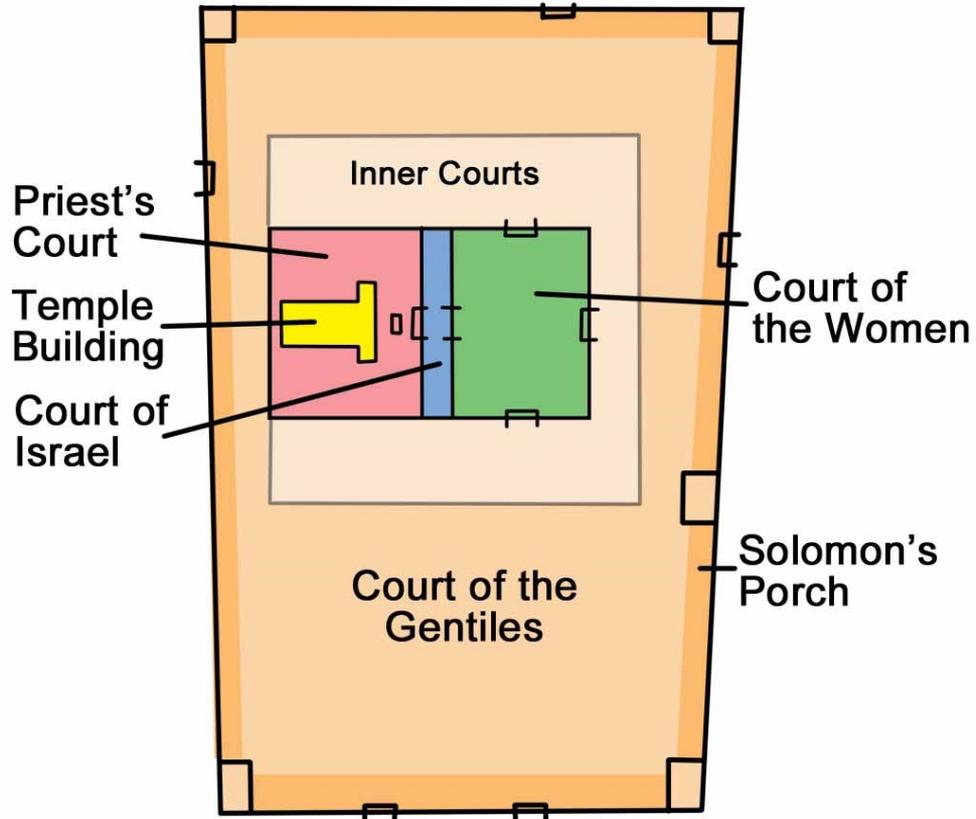
"so that My Salvation may reach to the end of earth."

The Veil is Torn and the Wall of Separation is torn down

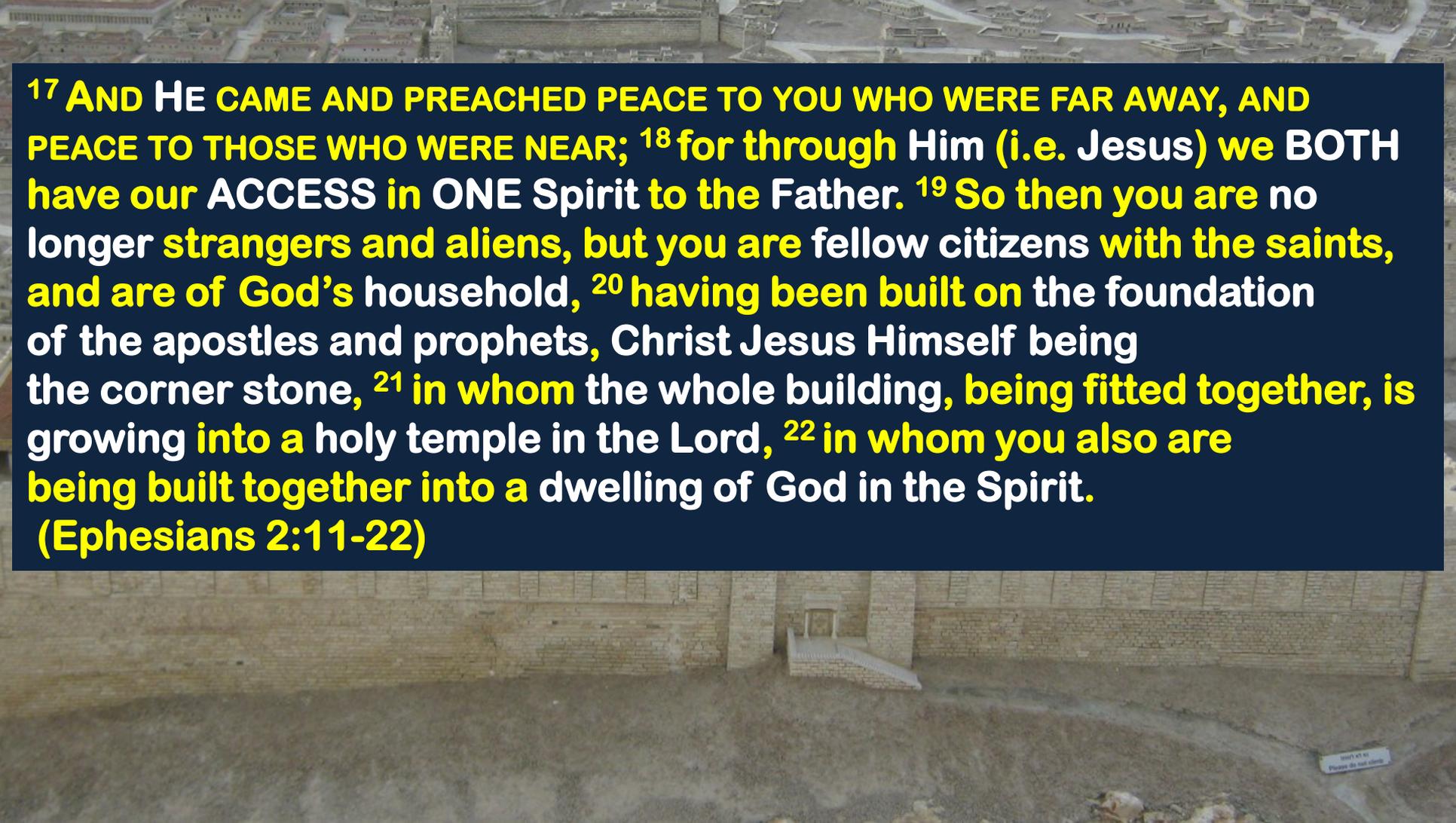


**The Veil is Torn
and the Wall of
Separation is
Torn Down –
Eph. 2:11-22**

The Temple in Jesus' Day (simplified)



11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands— 12 remember that you were at that time SEPARATE from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our PEACE, who made both groups into one and BROKE DOWN THE BARRIER OF THE DIVIDING WALL, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the TWO into ONE new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them BOTH in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.



17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; 18 for through Him (i.e. Jesus) we BOTH have our ACCESS in ONE Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
(Ephesians 2:11-22)

2. All the Apostles (including Paul) were Jewish / Israeli believers in their Messiah – the Messiah of Israel, Yeshua (Jesus Christ) who also is Jewish. For about the first 20 years after Pentecost (Acts 2) the church was completely made up of Jewish believers in their Messiah. We know that there were some Samaritans (see Acts 8), as well. It wasn't until Acts 10 that we see Gentiles coming to Christ.

Jesus Himself is our Model (see Philippians 2:5-10) as a Missionary. He came from Heaven to Earth, as a Jewish person (not His native home, language or culture). He was the First Cross-Cultural Missionary reaching an unreached people group. He is the very First Pioneer Missionary to the Lost.

Therefore, it is the Responsibility of all those who have been reached, to continue to further the reach of the Gospel even more, until He returns for us.

3. Just like the Jews (“the circumcision”) in Judea that took issue with Peter “eating with Gentiles” – sometimes there are HINDRANCES in our own lives that can hinder God using us to reach the lost. What are they? Maybe they are: Fears, Cultural Hang-ups, Prejudices, feelings of inadequacy, thinking you have to know more before sharing, “you just don’t like other people” ... etc. Sometimes they are small and sneaky little concepts or ideas that we are OK with, but in fact do hinder the Gospel through us.

Let God speak to you about what might be hindering you from sharing the Gospel ... seek Him so that you can be the best, Faithful Gospel Worker in His Harvest Field