

"Lessons from Acts"

Acts 11

1. Who are you accountable to? (1-18)

- A. You need to take care to set yourself in a place of knowing and being known.
 - I. Church meetings.
 - II. Bible Study groups.
 - III. Friendships and Mentors.
- B. You need to allow people to speak into your life.
 - I. To question you.
 - II. To correct you.
 - III. To encourage you.
- C. You want spiritual leaders who are accountable to others as well.
 - I. "Senior Pastor" not a Biblical position.
 - II. Elder led is Biblical.

2. Learn to ask God, "What does this mean?" (5-9)

- A. God is always speaking, now one way, now another. (Job 33:14-30)
- B. All of Scripture supports this.
 - I. Historical Genre vs. Prophetic Genre for example.
 - a.) Try to understand the Book of Revelation without understanding this.
- C. How to discern the voice of God in your life:
 - I. Study the Bible. (Primarily)
 - II. Pray. Ask for Wisdom. (James 1)
 - III. Acknowledge the Lord. (Proverbs 3:5-7a)
 - a.) Takes not leaning on your own understanding (your intellect).
 - b.) Takes a realization that you really aren't wise (your life-experiences may not necessarily help).
 - IV. Seek council.
 - V. Watch your circumstances. (Acts 16:6-10)

3. Remember, God must change people's minds. You can't. (18)

- A. When in a disagreement, this important Biblical principle will help you stay calm, cool, and collected.

2 Timothy 2:24-25

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth...

- B. Rather than try to change someone's mind pray that God would changed them. Then wait.
- C. Speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15)
- D. Be kind. ("It's the kindness of God that leads us to repentance." - Romans 2:4)

4. Being a "nobody" can't stop you from being someone great. (19-21)

- A. There are many nameless "greats" in Scripture. You can be one too.
- B. Like these, we need to listen carefully to Jesus' Words, think outside the box (what is popular), and be willing to do other than the norm.
 - I. Great people have always done great things.
 - II. Normalcy produces the norm.
 - a.) Noah, Abraham, Moses, Deborah, Samuel, David, Jeremiah, Jesus Himself, Matthew, Peter, Paul, Priscilla Aquila, and many more...they all fit these descriptions.

5. Be patient when waiting on God. (22-26)

- A. For Paul, it had been 6 years since Acts 9:30.
- B. Very often, it takes years for God's plan to take effect in our lives.
 - a.) David for example. (about 22 years from God telling him he will be king to him becoming king.)
- C. Be submissive.
 - a.) Submit to your authorities without fear. (God is in control, not them. Trust His Hand)

"You younger men be subject to your elders." - 1 Peter 5:5a

- D. Be humble.

"All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, for God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble."
1 Peter 5:5b

- C. Be carefree.
 - a.) Humble people are carefree because they aren't trying to fix things. They're letting God fix things.

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you." - 1 Peter 5:6-7

Close:

1. Who are you accountable to?
2. What's God trying to tell you?
3. Let God change people.
4. Be a nameless great.
5. Learn to work on God's timetable, not man's.