

WHEN THE CHURCH CHANGES PETER

Acts 11:1-18

Purpose: To see the impact of an encounter with God.

Introduction:

We have reported encounters with God. Now note some of the results of your encounters.

- I. The Encounter – a convergence of arranged circumstances.
 - A. Peter is praying and sees the vision of unclean animals lowered from heaven (5).
 - B. Cornelius hears from God (13).
 - C. Cornelius' messengers arrive just after the vision (11).
- II. Peter ministers to the Gentiles.
 - A. Peter crossed a cultural barrier (8).
 - B. Peter resisted his prejudices.
 - C. Peter followed the Spirit's guidance (12).
 - D. Peter preached (15).
- III. The Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles (15).
 - A. Peter quoted what Jesus said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (16)
 - B. Peter reasoned, "So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us . . ., who was I to think that I could oppose God?" (17)
- IV. The church meets to examine the evidence.
 - A. The church did not object (18) cf with (1-3).
 - B. The church praised God (18).
 - C. The church concluded Gentiles could

"repent unto life" (18).

Conclusion:

1. One person followed the Spirit's lead; the Church saw God's will.
2. Prejudice is broken; fear no longer controlled.
3. The Gospel is for all; everyone is included.
4. Evangelism begins.