



North Coast Calvary Chapel

Circles of Influence

Acts 10

August 28 & 29, 2010

Pastor Jim Doyle

Introduction: The experience of different environments

The events unfolding in the Book of Acts are crucial steps in the progress of the church in fulfilling the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20) as well as Jesus' promised progress (Acts 1:8).

Cornelius: (10:1-8)

- ❖ Devout: Leaned into Judaism, but not circumcised.
- ❖ God-fearing: Exposed to the enlightened concepts of Judaism
- ❖ Generous giver: Gave offerings to benefit those in need among the Jewish people.
- ❖ Consistent in Prayer: Prayed, as many Jews would, three times a day
 - Properly motivated acts of faith... (v.4, see also Lev. 2:2; Romans 12:1-2; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:15-16).

Peter: (10: 9 – 23a)

- ❖ The keys to the kingdom (Matthew 16:19)
 - God was moving beyond Israel. If Peter was to be a part of God's mission, he needed to understand that nothing was unclean, especially people. (Gal. 3:26-28)
 - What makes this possible? The **CROSS!** (Gal, 2:20; I John 4:7-21)
 - God found in Peter a person who was open to living with the uncomfortable.

The rest of the story: (10: 23b – 48)

- ❖ God's draws two worlds together for the sake of the Gospel

Observations: Think about your circles of influence!

- ❖ **Prayer (vs. 2-3, 9):** Peter and Cornelius were praying when God came upon them.
 - Prayer is communion with the Father, an expression of love and trust.
 - Prayer leads to having an impact in your circle of influence.
- ❖ **Vision (v.3, 10-16):** God speaks to us in a variety of ways.
 - Scriptures, others, circumstances and events
 - What is God saying to you today regarding your circles of influence?
- ❖ **Watch** (vs. 2, 4) Watch for signs today.
 - Become aware within your circles of influence (Mt. 25:44-45).
- ❖ **God's repetition (vs.15-16):** Repetition can be a good thing.
 - Repetition means: God is serious and I better slow down and pay attention.
 - Repetition occurs in a variety of ways all for the purpose of using your gifts, personality and love.

❖ **Different than us (vs. 1, 15, 26-28):** We tend to write off people.

- We welcome our own kind.
- Consider how you could expand your circles of influences, looking for common ground.

❖ **Stepping out in obedience (vs. 7-8, 23b-24):** A passion for obedience makes God's servants open to changes.

- What breakthroughs, within your circles of influence, does God want to bring about through you?

❖ **Team (vs. 7-8, 23b-24):** Join up with similarly motivated people.

- Relationships cause people to join you on Christ's mission.
- Find others within your circles of influence.

Pulling it all together: (in light of your circles of influence)

- Pick one of your circles of influence and start a small group, pulling a core group together to make an impact in the lives of others in that same circle!
- Join an existing small group through NCCC!
- Design and launch your own group!
- Look at the Welcome Card attached to your bulletin. On it is the line: **I would like more information on.** On the line provided, please write the words, "**Small Groups**," and bring it to **GUEST CENTRAL** or leave it on your chair!
- Enfold Christ's mission into your current group!
- Share about your existing group, in return for our prayer and support of what you're doing!

NOW TAKE A STEP!

Thinking It Through

- What are your circles of influence?
- Describe, in your own words, how the cross has made verses like Gal. 3:28 and Col. 3:11 possible.
- When has God allowed you to be uncomfortable in order to minister to others?
- Discuss how the following verses on prayer empower you in your circles of influence. (Rom. 8:26; Col. 4:2; I Tim. 2:1-4; Matt. 18:19-20; Mark 10:27; John 15:7; Phil. 4:6; I Thess. 5: 16-18; James 1:5-6; Heb.4:16)
- Regarding vision (direction, service, involvement), what have you been hearing from God and others you trust, perhaps repeatedly?
- Within your circles of influence, who has been coming to you in need? Who have you been able to encourage or pray for lately? Who has been wanting to hang around you?
- Consider how it's possible to view others, who are different from you or live differently, as candidates for the Kingdom.
- Meet others who are already serving in your area of passion (people, issues, ministries, missions, organizations, etc.) and jump in with them.