

## Sermon Text Discussion 8/27/17

Acts 9:32-11:18 “Spreading Grace to Every Race” by Drew Hunter

### Overview

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This section is a hinge in the Book of Acts. It is part of a great transition in the Book of Acts, and all of history. In Acts 9-12 the gospel is beginning to break out of the Jewish circle, spreading to the ends of the earth. Gentiles are included in the people of God, creating a whole new, multi-ethnic family. This story shows us God’s missional heart. And if this is his heart, it should be our heart. We learn that the Lord shows no partiality to any race or nation. Since God has no racial prejudices, neither should his people.

Acts 9:32 – 11:18

- 1) God prepared his people (9:32-10:23)
- 2) Peter preaches the gospel (10:24-10:43)
- 3) God makes his point (10:44-10:48)
- 4) God’s people embrace the lesson (11:1-18)

### Quotations

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“The early church needed to embrace God’s heart for the nations. At the center of this story is Peter’s declaration in 10:34 that God shows no partiality to any race or nation. In other words, God does not have any racial prejudice. He does not consider one race superior over another. And neither should we. For the gospel to spread to all nations, God’s people must embrace God’s impartial heart. Which means that there can be no racial prejudice among Christians.”

Drew Hunter

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) What must have been challenging for the early Jewish believers to accept that the Gentiles were now included among God’s people?
- 2) In the home of Cornelius, Peter is invited to share the message God has for these Gentiles. How did Peter explain the truth about Jesus and what the hearers needed to do?
- 3) What has the Lord used to help you grow in your heart for the nations?
- 4) What would happen if Christians everywhere truly reflected God’s impartial heart for all races and nations?
- 5) Which nationality, religion, or ethnic group is the most difficult for you to love and accept on equal footing?
- 6) What practical things could you do to move past racial or cultural barriers that shield you from relating to a particular neighbor, co-worker, or acquaintance?
- 7) Who could you invite into your home to create a household that welcomes racial and cultural diversity?