

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 18th October 2020
Sermon Title: A family devoted to: influencing culture
Bible Passage: Acts 11: 1 - 18

Recapping the Preach

Read Acts 11: 1 - 18 from various translations in the group.

- What stood out to from either of these passages?

Stu began with a recap on the series: *God shapes our character which transforms our leadership which influences culture*. He encouraged us not to despise the day of small beginnings (cf Zechariah 4:10). Take a moment to read Matthew 13:33.

- In what ways is the Kingdom of God like yeast?
- What lessons does this teach us about influencing culture?
- What fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) might we need to grow in while seeking to influence culture?

Peter was criticised for going into the house of a gentile to eat with them. In his explanation (vs.4-17) he recounts the events that took place leading up to and meeting Cornelius.

- What are the ways in which you see God at work behind the scenes in Peter's explanation?
- What does this tell you about the character and nature of God?
- How does this encourage you as you seek to exercise leadership and influence culture?

Stu closed with mentioning five practical things we can do as we seek to influence culture: pray, never underestimate the power of the gospel, be salt, be light, witness to the truth and stand firm.

- What promises of Scripture might you pray to see racial injustice stopped?
- How does the power of the gospel bring about a change in culture? Where have you seen this happen?
- What would it look like for you to be salt on your frontline?
- What would it look like for you to be light on your frontline?
- Do you believe that writing to MP's and supporting agencies like Christian Concern makes a difference in government policy?
- Have you ever been involved in protest - share your experience?

As a closing thought: this short series has been very thought provoking. For some it has caused deep heart searching, for others a resolve to stand for justice, for others a sense of defensiveness, for others joy that a dialogue can take place and for others...well there are no doubt a lot of responses.

- For a moment, imagine what it must have been like for Peter and Cornelius to cross this divide for the first time. How do you think they felt? What needed to change in both of them?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?

Prayer pointers

- Pray for racial reconciliation in our world.
- Pray for one another for a listening heart and spirit.
- Pray for other matters of injustice in our world that are on your heart.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>