

FBC Sebring Wednesday Prayer Meeting – Pastor Matt Crawford

February 17, 2016

Prayer in the Book of Acts (Part 7)

Acts 10:9-24 (ESV) [Recall background from end of chapter 9 and beginning of chapter 10.]

9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

10 And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance

11 and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.

12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.

13 And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."

15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."

16 This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate

18 and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there.

19 And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you.

20 Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them."

21 And Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?"

22 And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say."

23 So he invited them in to be his guests. The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.

24 And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Prayer points:

- Ask God to give us diligence and faithfulness in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17), and that we would be listening to His Spirit as we pray.
- Pray that we would have God's attitude of love toward those who are different from us (Ephesians 2:11-22, Matthew 28:18-20).
- Praise God for His work in drawing people unto Himself before we even meet them, and for His work in saving *you*!

- Pray for a willing and obedient spirit when God calls you to a task, even if you don't know all the details or results of obeying Him (negative example: Jonah).
- Pray that we would be excited evangelists like Cornelius, joyfully inviting people to meet Jesus!

Acts 10:25-33, 44-48 (ESV)

25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.

26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man."

27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered.

28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.

29 So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me."

30 And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing

31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

32 Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.'

33 So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

[Peter shares the gospel with the group in verses 34-43.]

44 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,

47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Prayer points:

- Pray for a hunger for the gospel in our community.
- Thank God for His glorious plan to bring not only Jews, but Gentiles to salvation (Genesis 12:3)!
- Praise God for the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit – God Himself lives in every believer!
- Pray that we would experience great revival – many souls saved, baptized, and made disciples of Jesus Christ – for the glory of our God.