



May 14-20, 2017
Text: *Acts 11:1-18*
**ACTS-ION: The Dynamic Life
of Christ's Church - Then and Now**

SUMMARY OF "SERMON": News about Peter entering a Gentile household and the Gentiles putting their faith in Jesus Christ (Chp. 10) was not received well by some Jewish Christian leaders who still believed that Gentiles needed to first follow Jewish scruples to accept Christ as Savior. Peter's recounting of how the Holy Spirit had brought this about, though, satisfied this initial critical group and they praised God for new believers.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The readings this week will address dealing with conflicts and confusion in a godly way.]

Monday, May 15 – **Mark 9:33-37 and 10:35-45** [The disciples had an argument over which of them pulled higher rank in the kingdom of God. Jesus spoke to them about having a servant's heart. But it didn't sink in and Jesus had to address it again in a deeper way showing Himself, the Greatest, as a servant to all, even to the cross.]

Tuesday, May 16 – **Joshua 22** [A major battle almost broke out between Israelite tribes simply because they did not bother to communicate with each other and then jumped to false conclusions – a sobering reminder of how we need to first listen and care for our brothers and sisters without pre-judging falsely.]]

Wednesday, May 17 – **Romans 15:1-13** [The Church in Rome was made up of Christians from both Jewish and Gentile backgrounds – i.e. very different "pre-Christ" perspectives. Paul encourages them all to respect and love one another in the Lord.]

Thursday, May 18 – **Ruth 4** [Ruth was a Gentile woman. But she embraced the faith of the true God of the Israelites and married a faithful Jew, Boaz. She became the great-grandmother of David the King and is in the genealogy of Christ.]

Friday, May 19 – **Ezra 9** [At first, this passage may seem to contradict God's acceptance of the Gentiles. But the situation is different. Here Ezra the priest is grieved not at intermarriage per se (see yesterday's story of Ruth the Gentile who married an Israelite) but at marrying practicing pagans who had no interest in worshipping the true God and thus showed the disobedience of the Israelites.]

Saturday, May 20 – **Philippians 2:1-4** [There was some conflict in the Philippian church and Paul called them to be like-minded and like-hearted in following Christ, preferring others above themselves.]



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