

## Sermon Notes

*How Big Is Your Circle?*

Acts 10:1–48

Pastor Jeff Hinds

1. The heart of God learns to value all people as made in God's image (*imago Dei*). Every person is a divine image-bearer, albeit tainted with our sin – and therefore every person matters to God (Acts 10:1–48; Genesis 1:26-27).
2. The heart of God does not confuse valuing people with dismissing sin. There is a tendency by some to dismiss sin, or even to label moral viewpoints as “bigotry”. The Bible teaches us to value people, while also never calling “good” what God calls sinful (Isaiah 5:20; Proverbs 17:15; Malachi 2:17; Ephesians 5:133).
3. The heart of God always says “Yes Lord”—even to God's hard commands—rather than “No Lord” or simply ignoring the Lord (Acts 10:13-14). Followers of Jesus seek to honor the Lord and follow His bidding (Matthew 6:33).

## Sermon Questions

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### CONNECT:

- Have you ever encountered prejudice on behalf of yourself or someone you know? (Expand your definition of prejudice to include financial status, style of dress, faith, etc.)

### GROW:

- READ Acts 10:1-16. Peter's vision opened his eyes to an ingrained prejudice he still had (against people) - even though he was actively serving the Lord. Have you ever experienced a change in your thinking regarding people who are different than yourself?
- Peter's first response to God after this revelation was to say "no." Have you ever been asked by the Lord to do something and initially refused? What were the circumstances? Why did you say no? Did you ever say "yes?" What was the result?
- In our current heated political/moral climate, have you ever considered our attitude toward the PEOPLE (not political/moral opinion) to be prejudicial? How might that realization change how you interact with them?
- Does interacting with people who have disagreements on clear, biblical moral issues cause you to withhold the gospel or burden your heart for them even more? If it causes you to withhold the gospel, why?
- READ Acts 10:34-48. Peter tells those gathered of the "gospel of peace through Jesus Christ." How would you describe that peace in your life?

### GO:

- READ Acts 10:17-33. Cornelius gathered family and friends to hear what Peter would tell them about the Lord. Who can you invite this week to a bible study, church service or Sunday School class?

