

Widening the Lens

Acts 11

I. Introduction

- Airplane illustration: The higher you go, the wider the scenery
- Book of Acts: As the book of Acts unfolds, the lens continues to widen as Luke records the spread of the gospel to ends of the earth.
- The early church and its “growing pains”

II. Overcoming Prejudice Through Peter’s Defense (v1-18)

- Major barrier between Jew and Gentile
- God orchestrated certain events to break down this barrier
- Peter presents the facts:
 - Conversion of Cornelius and household was clearly the work of God
 - Cornelius and household had exact same experience as the Jews
 - Significance of having the same experience
- Jewish believers recognize God’s plan for the Gentiles

III. Overcoming Prejudice By Preaching God’s Word (v19-26)

- Was it wrong that the early believers scattered as a result of Stephen’s death?
- Scattered believers preached the Word
- The church chose Barnabas
- Barnabas as an encourager

IV. Overcoming Prejudice By Sending Relief (v27-30)

- Prophets and Apostles were foundational to the church (Eph. 2:20)
- Gentiles sent relief to Jewish believers to demonstrate their love

V. Conclusion

- Acts 11:26
- Do you have tell other people that you are a Christian, or can others see your commitment to Christ by the way that you live?