



When God's Plan Threatens Our Traditions

Adam Bowers | 3/19/2023 | Acts 11:1-18

1. If you had to, would you rather eat a meal with the person you dislike the most or have to personally give them \$1,000?
2. What types of changes or new experiences do you love?
3. Thinking back to Acts 11:1-18, the believers in Jerusalem reacted to Peter with judgment and accusation. Have each member of your group imagine one of these scenarios and answer this question: "What is a question of concern or interest that you could respond with instead of judgment?"
 - a. A friend informs you that they've been making extra money on the side using a source of income that you consider inappropriate.
 - b. You find out one of your relatives is living a lifestyle that goes against your understanding of God's instructions. One night, they are over for dinner and tell you that they believe God approves of their actions and that the Bible doesn't directly speak to the issue.
 - c. A good friend from church tells you they've started using a substance on a regular basis that you're not sure is healthy or godly.
 - d. You discover that your spouse or parent has been spending a lot of money on a hobby that you think is wasteful.
 - e. A coworker has been taking frequent breaks at work, arriving late, and leaving early.
4. Peter responded graciously by telling them the story of what happened. What are some other ways Peter could have responded, and how might that outcome have been different?

5. Do you recall times when you have been judgmental toward others or realized others were unfairly judging you?
6. Adam shared 6 tips for responding to an unwelcome or troubling change. Which one resonates the most with you and why?
 - a. Look for the positives and don't only see the negatives
 - b. Ask genuine questions of interest or concern without rushing to judgment
 - c. Be humble even when it comes to your interpretation of God's Word, current events, and social trends
 - d. Practice putting your beliefs in the right bucket
 - e. Speak the truth in love
 - f. If you've struggled with these things in the past, turn around, start over, and praise God for whatever good you find