

## Acts 11

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him <sup>3</sup> and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

<sup>4</sup> Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: <sup>5</sup> "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. <sup>6</sup> I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. <sup>7</sup> Then I heard a voice telling me, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'

<sup>8</sup> "I replied, 'Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

<sup>9</sup> "The voice spoke from heaven a second time, 'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.' <sup>10</sup> This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

<sup>11</sup> "Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. <sup>14</sup> He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

<sup>15</sup> "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"

<sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life."

## John 13

<sup>31</sup> When he was gone, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him,<sup>[c]</sup> God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

<sup>33</sup> "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

<sup>34</sup> "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

<sup>36</sup> Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

<sup>37</sup> Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you."

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!

Jesus waits until Judas leaves the room  
And then seems in a rush to tell the others  
Before the final scene begins

“Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him.  
<sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself,  
and will glorify him at once”

Throughout his gospel, John refers to Jesus being glorified  
To be glorified simply means to be “lifted up”  
Raised above the others

That can be meant literally  
As a victorious team captain,  
Would be lifted up on the shoulders of the winning players

Or like Paulo de Canio was lifted up  
in the esteem of Sunderland fans  
having beaten the old enemy Newcastle

(to many Sunderland supporters  
what happens for the rest of the season means absolutely nothing – they beat Newcastle – de  
Canio’s a hero!)

But if you were to ask the disciples at that precise moment  
I don’t suppose they’d have a clue  
as to what Jesus is talking about

it’s hard enough for us to unpack 2000 years later  
but let me try one line at a time, 1<sup>st</sup> line...

“Now the Son of Man is glorified”  
This is Jesus, referring to Himself, not for the first time  
As the “Son of man”

The operative word in the this statement is “NOW”  
Jesus isn’t talking about what’s about to happen here  
He’s talking about the past  
What’s gone on up to this moment in time,  
And AT this moment in time  
“NOW the Son of man is glorified”

in other words, the preparation is complete  
Jesus has taught them all they need to know  
They’ve seen his miracles and heard His teaching

and God is glorified in him.  
<sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself,  
and will glorify him at once”

so leaves one final instruction (nay – command)  
Love one another

J’s love goes all way to cross

To us to be "Glorified" = lifted up  
like a captain lifted on shoulders

to J, glorified = the cross  
service, humility, selflessness, sacrifice

J glorifies God by demonstrating His true will & nature  
Love

How can RC church poss believe Pope infallible  
When they also believe he's a direct descendant of Peter?

You can't help but love dear old Peter  
Because he typifies so many human beings  
He's impetuous, hot-headed, passionate, short fused

we love him most of all  
because he has the most common of human traits  
he opens mouth long before engaging brain!

And yet here's the most wonderful thing about our gospel  
Despite all his faults  
Despite knowing full well he going to let Him down big-time  
Jesus loves him anyway

I often wonder what Jesus would have done  
Had Mahatma Gandhi been around in His day  
Or Martin Luther, or Nelson Mandela, or Bob Geldof(!)  
My guess is,  
He'd have still chosen Peter to build His church upon

In our Lent Course Timothy Radcliffe is asked  
*What are the consequences if the Church fails?*  
And his answer was a little surprising  
"Well it always does.  
It has always failed from the beginning.  
I think it is very important to realize  
that from the very beginning the Church has been a shambles."

Are we surprised – when Peter the Rock is our foundation?  
I know it's an old joke  
But the only time ever Peter resembled a rock  
was when he tried walking on water!

And yet (I seem to be saying that a lot lately) and yet  
Jesus loved him