

Pastor's Bible Study  
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church  
October 22, 2009

Acts 9:1—12:25

God pulls a surprise move: Gentiles are added to the kingdom!

1. At this point in the Book of Acts, Saul (Paul) is introduced. What is significant of his introduction at this point in the Book of Acts?
2. In chapter 9 we read stories in which the Lord speaks to two different people. First, Saul (Paul), and following him, Ananias. We should stop here and ask, "What is the significance of Ananias (a disciple) being sent by the Lord to pray for Paul?"
3. The whole chapter 9 is so God-centered. By this I mean the stories are written with God as the main actor. What does this tell us about the roles of disciples such as Paul?
4. In chapter 10, there is an interesting story about Cornelius, the Centurion. "He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God." What role does Cornelius play as Luke unfolds the story of Acts?
5. In chapter 11:1 the Gentiles accepted what? In the Greek, *λόγος* (*logos*) is translated in English, "word."
6. Several times in the Book of Acts, this phrase *λόγος τοῦ Κυρίου* (*logos tou kyrios*) = "word of the Lord" is rendered. There are serious political implications to this idea, as the word *kyrios* was the same used for Lord or Caesar, as in the Roman Emperor. Why is it crucial to understand that the Lord speaks?
7. In chapter 12, we see Herod mentioned briefly. What role does Herod play in the larger story of Acts? Why does he die?