

Living THIS III  
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Acts 11:1-18  
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**There is consumer culture in America**

Consumer culture has marked all of us in some ways.

- \*Where do you think your expectations of comfort or accommodation has shaped your expectations and pattern of life?
- \*What happens when people who have been raised in and marked by hyper-consumerism participate in the Church?
- \*What sort of churches do people raised in this culture look for? Create?

**The Holy Spirit is really bad at customer service**

Read and discuss Acts 11:1-18 (NIV)

*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 water, but you will be baptized with 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."*

\*What does this passage show us about ways the Holy Spirit works?

\*How has the Holy Spirit stretched you beyond your comfort zone?

**The early church was highly attuned to the leading of the Holy Spirit**

The focus was, "What is the Holy Spirit doing?" and "How can I respond to that?"

\*How is this a countercultural shift for us?

\*Can the Spirit both be kind, generous and loving, and also lead us to something we don't want to do?

**Walking by the Spirit means the Spirit is directing us, not us directing the Spirit**

This means we are looking to be led.

\*How can we practically turn off, or turn down, the consumer in us?

\*What is an honest assessment of your willingness to be led by the Holy Spirit?

\*Where is the Spirit nudging you to something that might not be comfortable?

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