

“Soon the news reached the apostles and other believers in Judea that the Gentiles had received the word of God. But when Peter arrived back in Jerusalem, the Jewish believers criticized him. “You entered the home of Gentiles and even ate with them!” they said.” Acts 11:1-3 NLT

lectio // Acts 11:1-18

I don't want to be critical while I'm looking in the mirror. It's EASY to look back at these words and say, “Really?, did you not understand the entire Old Covenant and responsibility of the Jewish people WAS to build relationships with Gentiles so that they would know God?” And here the Apostles and believers are criticizing Peter (of all people) for eating with them! Peter tells them the story of how it happened, clearing pinning the responsibility on the Holy Spirit for orchestrating such a radical move of love and hospitality. Then Peter says something profoundly simple, “then I remembered what Jesus said!” Eventually the guys caught on “When the others heard this, they stopped objecting and began praising God. They said, “We can see that God has also given the Gentiles the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life.” Ya think so?! Here's the mirror part: Have we forgotten what Jesus says about those we decided we shouldn't love, shouldn't show hospitality to? God is more at work among those who are broken and desperate than he is around those who are well and have everything they need! So, if God is at work among them, shouldn't I be among them as well? This has always been the challenge for me, for the church. Being with those with issues from my past are HARD - too hard for me. But, not too hard for Jesus.

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Dad,

The mirror of your word is hard to stare into. But stare I must! I must let your words continue to force me to see truth and see myself in the truth and not the other way around. I am again challenged to see a broken world and remember that I am a resident and I am redeemed. My job is to live, love and be hospitable to see your Spirit to the hard work of transformation.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root