

1. Introduction
 - a. One of the foundation stones of consumerism is being comfortable
 - i. House, Car, Income, Savings, Retirement, trips, pleasure
 - b. We all want comfort - it's a driving force in our life
 - i. Not just stuff like making money
 - ii. You avoid things that make you uncomfortable
 - c. But is there a reason for discomfort?
 - d. Last week, we looked at Saul's conversion
 - i. *For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name. (Acts 9:16)*
 - ii. *When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, (Acts 9:23)*
 - e. Clearly God's plan for Saul wasn't comfort, but something else
 - i. Suffering, threats for the sake of the Gospel and the glory of Jesus
 - ii. Is the Gospel worth suffering for?
 - f. What does God want for us? Comfort? Discomfort? What's on our horizon?
2. Acts 10:1-8 → Setting the stage
 - a. Acts 10:1-2
 - i. Centurion meant he was in charge of 100 men
 - ii. Italian Cohort: cohort was 600 men, 10 cohorts = legion, key region
 - b. Acts 10:3-8
 - i. Remember: these groups didn't get along
 - ii. Roman, Centurion, Italian Cohort, but a "God-fearer"
 - c. The Jews had prejudices against these people and vice versa
 - i. God had begun to soften Peter (Acts 8), but this is a step further
 - ii. Jews believed Gentiles aborted their babies and hid them in the floorboards
 - iii. Gentiles believed Jews were stuck-up and unsociable since they wouldn't eat pork (cheapest food in market), b/c they took off one day a week, b/c they wouldn't party w/ the Gentiles
 - d. On one level this passage is about overcoming prejudices, but w/ a purpose
 - i. For us, we have prejudices too (pre-judging)
 1. Rich vs. Poor, Lifestyle choices, religious, ethnic
 - e. Things are about to get uncomfortable for Peter as Cornelius sends for him
 - f. **We are the most uncomfortable when we function within our circles of prejudice**
 - i. This is why we don't like to interact w/ people in those circumstances
 - ii. Who makes you uncomfortable? (Titanic as an example, rich/poor)
3. Acts 10:9-16
 - a. Acts 10:9-14
 - i. They are on their way, Peter is oblivious praying on the roof
 - ii. Gets hungry and distracted while he's there
 - iii. Ever have those thoughts that pop into your head and you are like WHY?!
 1. Uncomfortable vision for Peter to have

- b. Acts 10:15
 - i. What God has made clean -
 - ii. God hadn't called it clean. In the Law he called it dirty. What's going on?!
 - 1. Uncomfortable statement to hear in your head - blasphemy?
 - c. **God prepares you through discomfort**
 - i. Cornelius' men are coming and that is going to be a tough situation
 - ii. God is preparing Peter to deal with it so he isn't thrown into the pot
 - d. Where are you uncomfortable?
 - i. Who has he placed in your life, work, small group, church, EGR?
 - e. Uncomfortable situations prepare you for something else:
 - i. God uses them to break down our prejudices
 - ii. God uses them to move you from your culture to kingdom culture
 - 1. v15: God is redefining clean
 - 2. N.T. Wright: "The NT writers are quite clear that the Mosaic law, which contains the basic prohibitions, was God's word to Israel and should be respected...but [they] are equally clear that, in light of Jesus Christ, it was to be seen as God's word for *a particular period and for a particular purpose.*"
 - 3. Moving from your culture to kingdom culture through discomfort
 - a. Circumcision, food, etc, were fading away because God had something else in store
 - iii. For us, this might look like seeing people w/ Jesus eyes instead of your culture's eyes:
 - 1. Do your politics advance the kingdom of God or a party view?
 - 2. Do you view people w/ God's eyes - in need of salvation - or through a different lens? (prison, muslims, etc)
 - iv. *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' (Matthew 25:35-36, ESV) - Kingdom Culture*
 - v. *"For I was hungry, while you had all you needed. I was thirsty, but you drank bottled water. I was a stranger, and you wanted me deported. I needed clothes, but you needed more clothes. I was sick, and you pointed out the behaviors that led to my sickness. I was in prison, and you said I was getting what I deserved." Our culture's manifestation of Matt 25*
 - f. God prepares us discomfort, but for what?
4. Acts 10:17-33
 - a. Explain
 - b. **God sends us into uncomfortable situations to demonstrate and declare the Gospel**
 - i. Radical Faith - mind blowing, mind boggling, crazy faith - we all want it
 - 1. But we want it on our terms, our determination of:
 - a. amount of \$, time, schedule, kids, hobbies

- ii. Problem = ministry isn't on a schedule nor is it comfortable
 - 1. Share testimony last week
 - iii. Radical faith is radical because it is faith despite comfort
 - 1. Kevin & Leilani update
 - iv. And you don't have to move to SE Asia either...
 - 1. *On Friday afternoon, a group of us from Revolve, including Pastor Bill, responded to a need from someone who has attended services on Sunday when she wasn't too sick to attend and literally does not have anyone to help her with any of the things most of us do on a daily basis. When all of your strength needs to be focused on regaining energy to get your head off the pillow, other tasks have to be put to the side.*
 - 2. *This is the power of what God is doing in our small groups, presenting circumstances that demand a response to become involved in helping someone get back on their feet. Working with others yesterday that were happy to be there was a gift from God to every one of us. Strong bonds are formed serving others for the Glory of God. To quote Charles H. Spurgeon, "That man is out of joint with the universe who takes all but makes no return. To give to others is but sowing seed for ourselves. He who is so good a steward as to be willing to use his substance for the Lord, shall be entrusted with more."*
 - 3. *Last but certainly not least are the spiritual rewards of being challenged to step out of my comfort zone. Dealing with my own life and my own pain has been my major accomplishment up until now. I wish I could have realized earlier in life that putting myself in the most uncomfortable situations would have resulted in the most positive changes. I have been introduced to a part of me that I never knew existed, and I am happy that I am getting to know the best part of me, through serving others in the name of Jesus.*
 - v. If you want to have a radical impact, you need to get uncomfortable
 - 1. After all, Jesus was uncomfortable
5. Acts 10:34-43
- a. Peter starts to share (kind of convincing himself...)
 - b. Explains Gospel
6. Acts 10:44-48
- a. HS falls on this next ethnic group, Peter witnesses it with his own eyes
 - b. Realizes that if God accepts them, he can't stop them!
 - c. All of this is about the spread of the Gospel and the glory of Jesus
 - d. We are sanctified (Made more like Jesus) in our discomfort
 - i. HS - confirms for Peter that the Gentiles can be saved (uncomfortable)
 - ii. Peter has a paradigm shift & he starts thinking w/ kingdom culture
 - iii. He is ready for what's next (vv 47-48)

e. God uses discomfort to further the Gospel and make us more like Jesus

7. Conclusion

- a. When was the last time you that you let yourself be uncomfortable?
 - i. Typically we flee from it
- b. When was the last time you let yourself be uncomfortable for Jesus?**
- c. It's awkward to stand up for truth in a culture that calls you a hate monger
- d. It's awkward to show forgiveness to people who don't deserve it
 - i. Even though none of us do
- e. It's uncomfortable to be sacrifice some of your own comforts so others can have what they don't have
 - i. Like giving up buying coffee or soda to donate that money to drilling a well
- f. It's annoying to be disrupted from your schedule, vacation, afternoon off to serve someone who requires more patience than you have
- g. It is radical, sold-out faith when we demonstrate and declare Jesus' Good News in the midst of uncomfortable situations
- h. This week I have a challenge for you:
 - i. Get Uncomfortable**
 - ii. Invite someone to church. Serve someone in need. Share the Gospel verbally. Pray w/ someone when they share. Give until it hurts. Invite people to a packing party. Start a Bible study at work. Step up and volunteer even though you feel like you have nothing to offer.
 - iii. Get Uncomfortable.**