



## Acts: Compassionate Living

**Date:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November

**Speaker:** Jo Ramdas-Harsia

**Key Verses:** Acts 10: 1-6, 44-48; Luke 16: 10-12, Ephesians 1: 3

### Talk Summary:

- Cornelius was the first gentile to receive one of the apostles into his home to hear the gospel. His generosity towards the poor was something that was being recognised by God through this.
- All of Cornelius' household was filled with the Holy Spirit before they were baptised in water.
- Jesus makes it clear that those who can be trusted with worldly wealth will also be trusted with heavenly wealth.
- Everything we have belongs to God - as His children, we're called to reflect His generous and compassionate character in the way we use what He's given us.
- If we are generous with our material wealth, like Cornelius, we will be trusted with Heavenly wealth in the shape of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Throughout Acts we see the material generosity of the early believers going hand in hand with generosity in using spiritual gifts (signs and wonders) and the declaration of the gospel.
- We are all empowered to use spiritual gifts, like the gift of healing, without exception.
- Our faith does not rest in our own ability to pray well or perform miracles but in Jesus' desire and ability to do so.

- There are many generous people in the world, but as believers are trusted with extra, life changing treasure from Heaven with which we are also called to be abundantly generous.
- We should be just as compassionate for the lost as we are for the poor because we have something no one else can offer.

## Worship

*Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.*

*(Small group worship resources can be found at [bvc.so/sgworship](http://bvc.so/sgworship))*

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

*If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:*

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

## Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- For Peter, the fact that Cornelius was not a Jew was a barrier to him sharing the gospel with him. What barriers do we face today in sharing the gospel?
- What aspect of our worldly and/or heavenly wealth do we find it easy/difficult to be generous with? Why?
- What extra resources do we feel we need from God in order to step out in faith in the area of our compassion towards the poor and/or the lost?

## Witness

*We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus.*

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?

**Note to Small Group Leaders:** Please note that if you'd like to review the sermon, or have a hard time following the video, you can use subtitles on YouTube. On the YouTube video, click the "closed captioning" button (bottom left of YouTube video screen, first button). Google "how to show subtitles on YouTube videos" if you need help with this.