

## **Small thinking or Big thinking**

Acts 10:1-16

### **The Story of Peter and the vision**

Every day we meet situations which are bigger than our ability to handle. They are more complex than our ability to understand. These situations can at times be beyond our emotional strength to carry. When this happens we need to run to God. We run to His grace which is sufficient for us. We ask for the Holy Spirit to help us with the load.

**Sometimes we endeavor to do something beyond us without asking for help or assistance.** Whenever we just rely on our own strength, ability, understanding we limit our selves. God works in us and through us to make us bigger.

**One area of concern is the area of our mind.** Often we get caught up in smallness in how we think. We think small. We can end up acting out of limitation.

### **What is thinking small?**

***Any thought that limits or hinders an idea or process from taking its full course.***

Some people call it different names like limitation, bondage, negative thinking, poverty mindset.

Here in this story we have an example of thinking small when God wants us to think Big.

### **Verse 15 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.'**

What God has called acceptable don't call unacceptable  
What God has called right, don't call wrong.  
What God has declared true or clean, is true and clean  
What God has decreed as the right thing is the right thing.  
What God has stated as the way to act,  
What God has stated as the next thing to do,  
What God has told us to move towards,  
What God has told us to link ourselves too,  
What God has called new is acceptable.

### **Whenever we think small we limit God but we also limit ourselves.**

Thinking small makes statements like

- ❖ That will never happen
- ❖ They will never change

- ❖ I can not do that
- ❖ I am just happy with what I am doing
- ❖ I do not need other friends
- ❖ Why should I?
- ❖ What about me?
- ❖ Why cant people see me?
- ❖ Who am I?
- ❖ Why change it. Why do we need a new one?

These are all evidences of people that may have some challenges with thinking small.

**Peter had a problem. His thoughts made him limited by his past.**

He knew God loved him and worked wonder miracles through him but he was stuck in a place. God never intended for us to be stuck - unwilling to change something. God is an UNLIMITED GOD!

So he's got this problem and God wants to help him push past this problem. So **God uses an everyday thing**, his hunger, to show him his small mindedness.

Unfortunately Peter doesn't get it the first time. So God tells him a second time. The penny still hasn't dropped so God tells him a third time. God knows that if something is spoken three times in the Jewish culture it is irrevocable. (I Divorce, I Divorce, I Divorce).

**If God only said it**

- ❖ Once – He's just trying to grab your attention
- ❖ Twice – he 's trying to teach you something
- ❖ Thrice – GET ON YOUR BIKE SON! It's no longer a request.

I wonder what God is saying to you right now?

**Small Mindedness**

***Any thought that limits or hinders an idea or process from taking its full course.***

Where can it come from?

**Pre-dominantly like all mindsets it is atmospheric.**

*An Atmosphere is something we breathe in and live in and breathe into.*

We grow up believing certain things and then perpetuate those things in our lives building an atmosphere. You don't need to talk about an atmosphere to know it exists.

**Every one of us has atmospheres in our lives.** Fear can become an atmosphere. Joy can be an atmosphere. Generosity can be an atmosphere. Peace can be an atmosphere. Strife can be an atmosphere. Atmospheres can be positive and negative. Envy, patience and all the other fruits of the Spirit can be atmospheres in our world. The works of the flesh can become atmosphere's.

Small-mindedness is just one such atmosphere we can live in. Let me say that God never intended us to live under a small mind. He is a big God with big vision with big dreams for you and those you come into contact with. **God is the maker/creative force that builds all powerful atmospheres into our worlds.** He is ever getting us to 'repent' – to change our thinking to match His thinking; to change our world to reflect His world.

### **Mindsets are powerful**

They can either hinder our progress or push us past others that have been waiting for years for something good to happen to them.

**“What we allow to stay in our lives becomes an atmosphere.”**

The atmospheres we have had built over our lives and the atmospheres we build over our lives develop or maintain mindsets.

**All of your current thinking comes from the atmosphere you have in your world right now.**

Peter had an atmosphere that meant he could not eat unclean animals. This atmosphere would not allow him to even obey the voice of God.

Atmospheres are that powerful.

If you believe you have something in your world which is an atmosphere you need changing then I have an answer for you. It is not me. It's not my preaching. It's not just this church or its people. It's the presence of God.

It is vital to understand the power of **God's presence** in your world. It is **the only all powerful atmosphere changer.**

Peter's atmosphere changed due to the presence of God.

In verse 34 we see the words 'I perceived'. When God's presence comes into your world

1. Your ability to perceive something beyond the atmosphere you live in comes to life. You can understand things that you could not before.

Peter saw beyond his atmosphere into the atmosphere of God. He then knew that he was no longer limited by his feeble small mindedness.

2. God's presence opens up opportunities for you to succeed.

Peter shared with them the gospel. He could now speak to others about the power he had and the power of God that could be evident in people's worlds.

3. God's presence falls on others.

When you break out of an atmosphere or mindset that has trapped you, others are also given the breakthrough. How wonderful is this. God works through you because you got on your bike.

The presence of God is so powerful for us.

While we may change location, homes, church, friends, work, workplace, boss, partner, spending habits, eating habits even dress style we still carry atmosphere.

Coming to Christ is not just about getting forgiveness of sin, its about changing your life through the power of God's atmosphere/presence so that you become a bright, happy, satisfied person with a divine purpose who enjoys life to the full!!

Small-minded people think small. They can become trapped inside their own thinking or atmosphere so that they are unable to get out of the very place in their mind which has caused them grief.

God gives us hope through His life.

Today ask God for a change in your atmosphere in your world. Today, make the choice to connect with the powerful presence of God.

Does it appear in the bible?

What does it bring?

How can we move from it?