

Important Conversations that don't Happen

Sometimes, important conversations don't happen

- What are some important conversations we need to have with people (or them with us)?
- Why might we not talk about them?
- How much good usually comes by avoiding them?

“First order questions”:

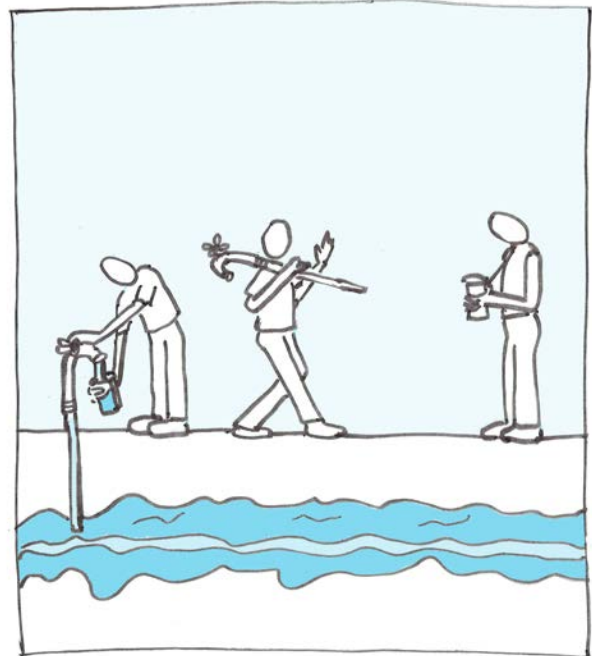
- Does God exist?
- What happens when you and I die?
- Will God judge you and me? Based on what?
- Will I receive God's blessing rather than His judgment?

**Are there people in your life
with whom you need to talk
about these things?**

The Judge and Savior Over All

Acts 10:23-48

Chinese: page 1783
Spanish: page 1400
Brown: page 1102
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Acts 10:1-11:18

Cornelius in Caesarea →
 Gentile, Roman army officer
 Worshiped God of Israel
 Not welcomed by Jewish Christians
 Angel: "Send for Simon Peter"

← **Simon Peter** in Joppa
 Jewish Christian
 Leader of Christian church
 Avoided Gentiles
 Angel: "Go to Cornelius"

Peter told the story of Jesus as Judge and Savior
 The Holy Spirit came on Cornelius and his household
 Peter accepted them & baptized them as full Christians
 Jewish Christians were hesitant, then they accepted Cornelius

Acts 10:23-48

- 23-26:** Peter+6: journey, arrival, greeting & high expectations
- 27-33:** • Both Peter and Cornelius expected something big
- 34-36:** – Peter brings 6(!) witnesses
- 37-41:** – Cornelius gathered a crowd to experience God's work
- 42-43:** • Cornelius bows: very dramatic for centurion to bow
- 44-46a:** to a Jewish commoner
- 46b-48:** • Peter objects: "I am only a man myself"
- Cross-cultural misunderstanding??
 - Peter makes sure there is no confusion:
 Peter is NOT above Cornelius

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Acts 10:23-48

23-26: Peter+6: journey, arrival, greeting & high expectations

27-33: Initial speeches: Expectation of God's work

34-36: • Peter states the obvious problem: unclean & unclean

37-41: • Peter has already learned: no person is "unclean"

42-43: • He came and entered without objections

44-46a: • Cornelius anticipates God's powerful word & work

46b-48: • An **angel** announced the importance of this event
and of Peter's words

• "We are here in the **presence of God...**

to listen to everything **the Lord** has commanded
you to tell **us**"

Acts 10:23-48

23-26: Peter+6: journey, arrival, greeting & high expectations

27-33: Initial speeches: Expectation of God's work

34-36: Peter: God is impartial; sent Jesus as Lord of all

37-41: • It seems: Gentiles' eagerness to hear from God

42-43: helped bring conviction to Peter: no favoritism

44-46a: • Not: "everyone is saved"

46b-48: • Rather: "salvation and life in Jesus is available
to peoples of every nation"

• God gave Israel the message (the Gospel):

Good News of peace (holistic salvation)

to **all** in Jesus Christ

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23-26: Peter+6: journey, arrival, greeting & high expectations

27-33: Initial speeches: Expectation of God's work

34-36: Peter: God is impartial; sent Jesus as Lord of all

37-41: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection did God's work

42-43: • Cornelius & people were aware,

44-46a: yet 'proclamation' was powerful for conviction

46b-48: and trust

– Summary of Jesus' actions, death and resurrection, rather than His words

- A few are chosen witnesses, who then must tell all
- Jesus' bodily resurrection is central to forgiveness

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34-36: Peter: God is impartial; sent Jesus as Lord of all

37-41: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection did God's work

42-43: Jesus commanded telling this Gospel of forgiveness

44-46a: • Jesus is **judge** of 'living & dead' → everyone!

- 46b-48: • The Old Testament, as a whole, points to **forgiveness** (life, welcome by God) in Jesus
- Available to **everyone** who believes in Him
 - This is the climax: Has Peter gone too far? What will happen when the Jewish Christians hear??

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42-43: Jesus commanded telling this Gospel of forgiveness

44-46a: God shows His approval of the Gentiles' faith

- 46b-48:
- Resolution: God acts unmistakably, yet without direct words (maybe more convincing)
 - **Holy Spirit** in the Gentiles proves God's approval
 - Amazes the Jewish Christians! A shocking change
 - Key sign: praising God → cross-cultural evangelism

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37-41: Jesus' life, death, and resurrection did God's work

42-43: Jesus commanded telling this Gospel of forgiveness

44-46a: God shows His approval of Gentile's faith

- 46b-48: Peter joins God's approval, fully welcoming Gentiles
- Identifies the controversy, and resolves it: people must not resist the work of God!
 - Baptism served as the church's recognition and endorsement of God's work

The Big Idea

God appointed Jesus His Son
as **judge**

over all, **every nation, tribe,
people, and language**

and gave Him as **savior**

to all **every nation, tribe,
people, and language**

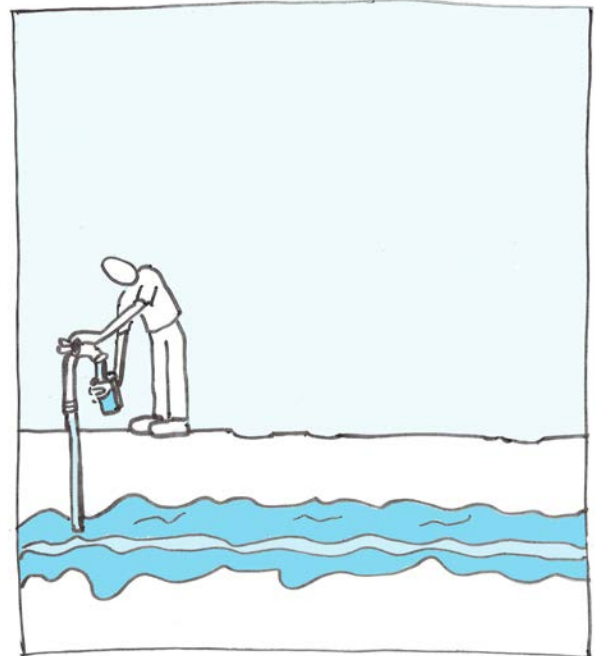
who believe in His name

**worship Him as God
by words and actions**

New life in Jesus Christ
comes from the 'living water'
of the Holy Spirit

Jesus said, "Let anyone who is
thirsty come to me and drink.

Whoever believes in me, as
Scripture has said, rivers of
living water will flow from
within them." By this he
meant the Spirit. *John 7:37-39*

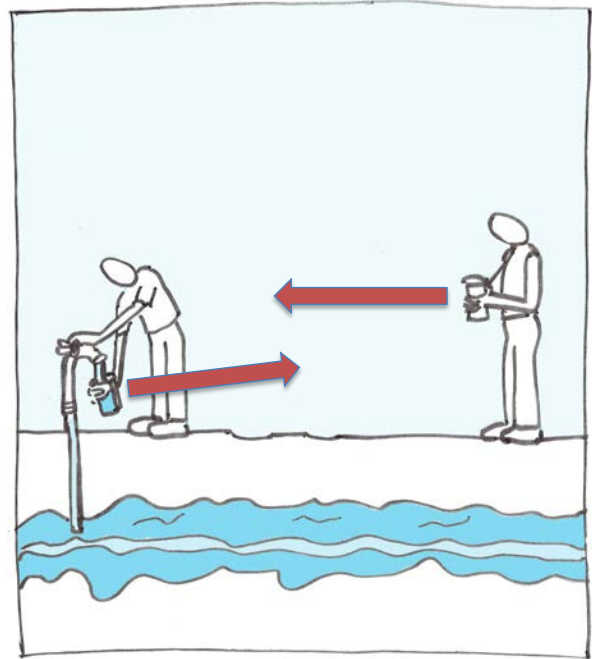


New life in Jesus Christ
comes from the 'living water'
of the Holy Spirit

How will others receive this
living water?

They could come to the
Christians

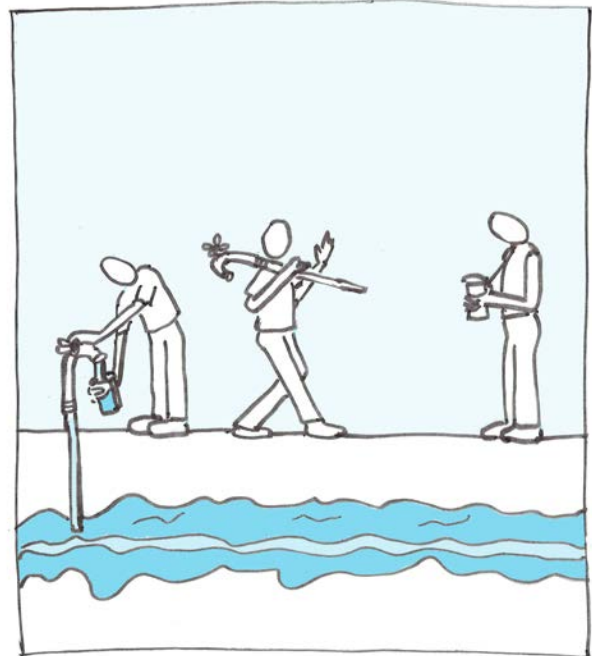
The Christians could take
water to them



New life in Jesus Christ
comes from the 'living water'
of the Holy Spirit

How will others receive this
living water?

Share the Gospel (spigot),
so they can receive the Spirit
directly from God



The Big Idea

Christians are to 'proclaim' the Gospel in Jesus to all peoples
 God appointed Jesus His Son as **judge** over all, **every nation, tribe, people, and language**
 So that all peoples can directly experience the work of God as fellow recipients of God's grace
 and gave Him as **savior** to all **every nation, tribe, people, and language**
 who believe in His name **worship Him as God by words and actions**

Application

Worship Jesus as God!

- It is urgent: Jesus is judge over all
 - Anyone who is not **in Christ** is **cut off from Life**
 - God kindly gives some time to respond
- For all who believe in (worship) Jesus as God, He gives Life abundantly, and forever
- It is a priceless gift for **all** who will receive it in worship
- Today, if you hear His voice and sense His presence, **worship Jesus as God**

Application

Worship Jesus as God!

Introduce people to Jesus Christ

- Ask them to tell their story of God's ongoing work
- In wisdom and as the Spirit leads:
 - Tell the story of Jesus, as Judge and Savior over all
 - Humbly tell your story of Jesus' ongoing work:
His forgiveness & His transformation
- Expect the Holy Spirit to work directly in their hearts

Are you actively doing this? Glory be to God!!!

Sometimes important conversations don't happen:

Why not? What can we do to pursue these conversations?

The Big Idea

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as **judge**

over all, **every nation, tribe,
people, and language**

and gave Him as **savior**

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