

The Gospel is For All People

Acts 10:1-48

❖ Intro

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- **Recap**
 - Ch 1-9
- **Summary of Acts 10**
 - **Gentile has a vision telling him to send for peter**
 - **Peter has a vision telling him**

❖ A Man Who Draws Near to God

- **At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ² a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³ About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." ⁴ And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵ And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." ⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, ⁸ and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.**
- **A Devout man**
 - Devout – religious... pious... respect for God and God's ways
- **Feared God**
 - Feared...
 - Beginning of Wisdom
 - Meaning he had: And exlited view of God... He revered God
- **Gave Alms**
 - Generous... and knew his possessions were not His own...
- **Prayed Continually**
 - He sought after God... And I believe God heard him...
 - I think He was a living example of:
 - **James 4:8 ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.**
 - ◆ He was drawing near to the Lord...
 - ◆ He was seeking the Lord
 - **Isaiah 55:6-7 "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**
- **We need to be a lot like this guy...**
 - We need to draw near to the Lord...
 - Seeking the Lord...
 - Even (especially) those who are saved, should make this their practice...
- **Notice: He Was Not Yet Saved!**
 - **1) Look at verse 43**
 - **"To him [i.e., to Christ] all the prophets bear witness that every one who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."**
 - He tells them that he and the apostles had been sent to preach this message..

- They had not yet done that...
- **2) Acts 11:13-14**
 - "He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, Send to Joppa and bring Simon called Peter; he will declare to you a message by which you will be saved, you and all your household."
 - **Notice:**
 - ◆ He will declare a message by which you will be saved...
 - The message... the gospel... will bring salvation
 - ◆ Also... it is in the future tense...
 - Will bring salvation...
 - Not already has brought you salvation
- **3) Also, Jews throughout the book of Acts... Who were considered Devout...**
 - Were still called to Repent and believe the gospel
 - The Jews that listened that day at Pentecost were called Devout
 - Just like Cornelius
 - Yet they were still called to repent and be baptized for forgiveness of their sins...
- **4) Check out the reaction of the apostles**
 - When the apostles hear Peter tell the story about Cornelius, their initial misgivings are silenced, Luke says,
 - ◆ Acts 11:18 "And they glorified God, saying, Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance unto life."
 - They realized God had given life to Cornelius and his household...

❖ Why is this point so Important?

- **Because, we are called to reach the unreached...**
 - And even if they have an idea of God...
 - Without the gospel they will not be saved...
- **Devoutness.... Will not save anyone**
 - God-fearing people who do good and right things are not already saved...
 - They need the gospel
 - The gospel began with devout people... the Jews...
 - Yet they were still told to repent...
 - Told that righteous works and religious rule following will not gain them eternal life
 - ONLY BELIEF IN THE NAME OF JESUS
- **Also... When people say... I am good with God...**
 - I know I am going to heaven... because of this reason or that...
 - And they answer in ways different than that...
 - Because I have trusted in the Name of Jesus for the forgiveness of my sins...
 - We can look to these verses and say...
 - This man needed to believe in the gospel, and so do you...

❖ A Man Ready to be Used by God

- ⁹ The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰ And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or

unclean.”¹⁵ And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.”¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.¹⁷ Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon’s house, stood at the gate¹⁸ and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there.¹⁹ And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you.²⁰ Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.”²¹ And Peter went down to the men and said, “I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?”²² And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.”²³ So he invited them in to be his guests.

➤ **Went up to Pray**

- **Made it a part of His day...**
- **He made much of God in prayer..**
 - And God used Peter much in the world...
 - Expound on the importance of Prayer...

➤ **There God gave him a vision**

- **The vision**
 - All kinds of animals placed before him...
 - And He is told to go and eat
 - That was a problem... because Jews did not eat certain kinds of meat...
 - They did not because it was part of the law given by Moses...
 - Peter would not:
 - ◆ Because of his upbringing... He did not want to do it...
 - ◆ He felt morally obligated to not eat the meat...
- **What are some things you feel morally obligated to...**
 - That God has given you freedom from...
 - We are free from the law...
 - So be careful... with your moral obligations...
 - That could turn into legalism...
 - Especially, when your legalism turns to judgment over those who are not like you...
 - Or you put an unfair burden or yoke on another believer
 - ◆ Who did not grow up with your moral obligations...
- **Back to the vision...**
 - He is told...
 - **“What God has made clean, do not call common.”**
 - Now, Peter becomes perplexed as to the meaning of this vision...
- **What is Awesome...**
 - We are going to get to see the meaning of the vision played out in the life of Peter...
 - ◆ And he got a front row seat...
 - ◆ We will soon get to it..

➤ **Peter was in tune with the Spirit**

- The Spirit told him the three men were looking for him
- The Spirit also said, that He had sent them...
- Because Peter was devoted to Prayer...
 - He was then in tune with the Spirit of God...

➤ **Many of us complain about the shallowness of our walk with the Lord...**

- How we struggle so much

- How we can understand the Word... Can't seem to find God's will for our life...
- There is no wonder People...
 - You are weak in Prayer...
 - You are weak in the Word of God

❖ The Gospel is for All People (Expound)

- The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. ²⁶ But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man." ²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. ²⁸ And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. ²⁹ So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me." ³⁰ And Cornelius said, "Four days ago, about this hour, I was praying in my house at the ninth hour, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing ³¹ and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea.' ³³ So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord." ³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
- **There is a verse in Acts 17... that I have found great use of in my life**
 - And I would say if you can not understand this verse, you can not understand the gospel
- **Acts 17:26**
 - ²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth,
- **Here in verse 35 Peter finally understands it...**
 - ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him...
- **The Gospel is for all people...**
 - Not just white people
 - Rich people
 - Germans...
 - Africans
 - Etc...
- **If the gospel is for all people...**
 - Then our houses that house the church of God is open to all people...
- **Oh What A Struggle we have with racism in the Churches Houses across the world...**
 - When you see it, then you certainly see that there is a very weak understanding of the gospel...

❖ Peter Shares the Simple Gospel

- **I Love the Simplicity of this message...**
 - ³⁶ As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),
 - **God sent His Son**
 - ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:
 - **You heard about what happened in the life of Jesus**

- ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
 - **Jesus did mighty things of God, by God's power**
 - ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.
 - **We all saw it**
 - They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,
 - The killed Him... He death was our life
 - ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day
 - **The Resurrection**
 - and made him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
 - His appearance
 - ⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.
 - **Now we are all sent out to go**
 - ◆ **Because Jesus will judge**
 - ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."
 - The invitation... to trust and be saved...
- **What a simple message, even for us here today...**

❖ **The Sovereign Work of the Holy Spirit**

- ⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.
- **The Holy Spirit was moving in the hearts and minds of those listening...**
- He was affirming to them the truth of the message...
- **Why Sovereign?**
- Because the Holy Spirit is God!
- **What had the Spirit done?**
- **He had spoken to Peter telling him to Go with the men**
 - See verse 19
 - **He was also the reason Cornelius had the vision...**
 - See verse 19
 - He... the Spirit... had sent them...
 - And He was sending Peter...
 - **The Holy Spirit then falls on them...**
 - He was moving in their hearts..
 - He was moving in Peter as Peter preached...
 - **Now the Gentiles speak in tongues...**
 - Now, this had occurred to the Jews, Samaritans and now the gentiles...
 - God gave a sign of His acceptance of these three groups...
- **What does the Spirit continue to do today?**
- The same things...
- **God worked in them**

- ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.
- The praised God
- Peter Baptized them
- He stayed and He taught them

❖ **Invitation**

- The Spirit is moving and working even today
 - Through the preaching and teaching and singing of His Word
 - Is He speaking to you?
- Are You a man Drawing near to God?
- Are you a man ready to be used by God?
- Are you about making sure the gospel is going to all people?
- Can you share the simple Gospel that Peter shared?
- Do you see the Holy Spirit at work in your Life?
 - Do you trust Him to lead you...?
 - Or do we spend more time quenching and grieving Him?