

Acts 10 – The Gospel for the Nations

This morning, as we open the Word of God together, I invite you to turn to Acts 10. COVID's not going to stop us from worshiping through the Word today. We can't be together physically, but we can be together in the Word.

Acts 10 – The Gospel for the Nations.

For those of you that were with us last week – remember we looked at the truth that God can save anyone – that there is no person so lost that the grace and mercy of God in Christ can't save. We saw this guy named Saul meets Jesus, turns to Jesus in faith, and his life is forever changed. This week, in Acts 10, we'll see that same theme but instead it's with a group of people – namely the Gentiles as we see God's Gospel is for the Nations.

Up until this point in church history, Christianity could have been described as a sect of Judaism. But we also know that the Gospel will be taken to the nations. Acts 10 tells the story of the Holy Spirit, starting to break down the barriers between the Jewish people and the rest of the world (the Gentiles).

I. Cornelius' Vision (V1-8)

In the first few verses of Acts 10 we're introduced to a Roman officer named Cornelius.

- Centurion – leader of 100 military men
- Caesarea – Roman capital of Judea – hated by the Jewish people.
- Says that he feared God. Now to be clear, he wasn't a Christian, but he was seeking the things of God.

V3 – About 3 in the afternoon he had a vision, and an angel tells him to go get Peter.

Peter was staying with this guy named Simon, a tanner. The barriers that Peter had built for himself were already starting to be broken down by the Gospel. We're gonna miss the importance of Peter staying with Simon the tanner. See, in 1st century Judaism, there's this huge importance on everything being clean and pure. The purity laws of the Old Testament were huge. But tanners dealt with the skins of dead animals – making leather – and they were considered unclean because of the work they did. So the fact that Pete's staying with Simon the tanner, already shows us that the barriers he would have grown up with are starting to be broken down.

II. Pete's Vision (9-16)

So, as Cornelius' men are traveling to get Peter, Peter gets this incredible vision himself. He was praying and...

READ V11-16

V14 – Peter’s purity as a Jew mattered to him. Never has he eaten something unclean. Peter was an obedient Jewish man. And the thought of violating the Jewish dietary laws would have shocked his conscience.

V15 – What God has made clean...Through Jesus Christ, God really is uniting a people around the Gospel. Not based on ethnic identity, or religious heritage – but through Christ.

III. Peter & Cornelius (17-33 / 34-43)

V17 – Peter was perplexed. Yes he was a Christian. Yes he is an apostle. Yes, but he also had deeply rooted within him the Jewish religious system. And God is starting to rip down these barriers.

Cornelius’ messengers arrive for Peter, and the Holy Spirit tells Peter to go with them, “with no doubts at all...”

So Peter goes with them, meets Cornelius and preaches Jesus to him. Pointing him to believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin.

Cornelius – a God-fearer, a religious man – Cornelius needed Jesus. All people every where need Jesus. Our role is to go and tell. Call people to repent and believe. Because the Gospel is good news for all the nations.

IV. The Holy Spirit is poured out “even on the Gentiles” (V44-48)

Chapter 10 closes with a picture that is very similar to Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit comes to the Gentiles, much to the surprise of the Jewish church, says in V45 that the circumcised believers were amazed because the Holy Spirit came even to the Gentiles.

God’s mission, not only is it unstoppable, but it is global in nature. All of the Old and New Testaments affirm that God’s mission is global. That one day people from every nation tribe and language will stand before the throne of God and bow in worship to Jesus.

Who will you take this Gospel to?

- People Near You
- People Far from You
- People Like You
- People Unlike You

Who will you take this Gospel to?