

God Cleans the Unclean

Acts 10; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 10-16-2022

1. God will always get the gospel to those seeking Him.

The Afternoon Vision (1-8) Caesarea was the capital of the Roman province. Cornelius was a Gentile Roman soldier who was in command of a unit of 100 soldiers (thus, a 'centurion'). He was part of the 'Italian cohort'. A cohort was a group of 600 soldiers (6 units of 100) which was part of a legion (6,000 soldiers or 10 cohorts). He was a 'God-fearer' who was loosely attached to the Jewish religion, not having become a Jewish proselyte. 'Alms' were gifts of charity to the poor. The 'ninth hour' was 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Cornelius was terrified ('much alarmed') when he saw the angel. Joppa was 31 miles from Caesarea, about a days' journey on horseback.

Acts 10 is about God bringing the unexpected to faith in Jesus through the preaching of the gospel along with dreams and visions being employed.

There are those who testify that God is still using these things, as accessories to the preaching of the gospel, in bringing people to Jesus. If someone desires and asks for God's mercy, God will make a way for the gospel to be brought to him.

Do you really want to know the truth and live as God intended? God is not the hindrance! – Isaiah 45:22

2. God opened the door for all to become clean when He sent Jesus.

The Lunchtime Dream (9-16) The 'sixth hour' was noon time. The word for 'trance' is the word from which we get our word, 'ecstasy'. The Old Testament forbid the eating of certain animals and creatures (Leviticus 11:46-47) and made a distinction between the clean and the unclean.

Acts 10 is about God declaring the unclean to be clean, in regard to both food and people! - Romans 4:5

We need to understand the changes that have been brought to us and to the world through the coming of Christ and the opportunity for all people to become clean.

Do you know that you're clean before God? Are you resting in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins? – 2 Corinthians 5:17

3. God will give us whatever direction we need to trust and love.

The Spirit's Direction (17-23) Peter was puzzled ('greatly perplexed') by what the vision meant. The Spirit tells Peter not to allow his unsettled conscience to keep him from going with the men at the gate ('accompany them without misgivings').

When there is a need for divine direction apart from the Word, God will give what is needed.

Are you trusting God to give you what you need to trust Him and love? – Psalm 119:33-36

4. God can overcome the barriers that separate us from Him and others.

The Unlawful Visit (24-33) For God to ‘remember’ Cornelius’ prayers and actions is for God to respond to them in His mercy and grace.

We should not see anyone as beyond the reach of God’s mercy and grace.

Do you think there are people in your life that are beyond the reach of God’s grace? – Matthew 11:28-30

5. God saves sinners through human witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus.

The Good News of Forgiveness through Faith (34-43) To ‘show partiality’ is to ‘receive someone based on their face’ or to show favoritism to certain people rather than to treat all people justly. To ‘fear God’ is to show Him proper reverence and worship and trust. The idea of ‘peace’ is the idea of ‘shalom’ in Hebrew which means well-being as well as the absence of conflict and reconciliation. The idea of ‘doing good’ is the idea of being a benefit to humanity (‘benefactor’). Sickness here is portrayed as the work of the devil (‘oppressed by the devil’). The ‘cross’ was a sign of being cursed by God (Deuteronomy 21:22-23). The ‘Judge of the living and the dead’ is the Judge of every person who has or will ever live.

Acts 10 is about the Good News of Jesus that changes people.

God works to save sinners through witnesses of the resurrection and witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus.

Have you embraced your role in the testimony of God to His Son? Are you pursuing love by spreading the good news? – Acts 1:8

6. God confirms salvation through the fruit of the Spirit.

The Confirmation of the Spirit (44-48) The Jews were astonished or completely surprised (‘amazed’) when God sent the Spirit on the Gentiles.

Acts 10 is about what has been called the ‘Pentecost of the Gentile World’.

The evidence of saving faith is the work of the Spirit in making us worshipers and lovers.

Is there evidence in your life that you have received the Holy Spirit? – Ephesians 5:15-21