



Sunday, September 1, 2019

Pastor Jimmy Phillips

Unsung Heroes

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

Acts 9:31

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8

- Simon was a Jew, but his trade as tanner made him an **unclean** "outcast" in his own community.
- Simon the Tanner was an **unlikely host** for the Apostle Peter.
- But Simon the Tanner was also Simon the **Christian**.

God's Plan

- It's clear that God's **plan** was **directing** Peter to this Unsung Hero Simon in Joppa
- Peter understood that Joppa **represented** God's call to love the **unclean**
- The **vision** on the roof showed that God **accepted** the unclean

While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. ¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

Acts 10:17-18

- So in receiving this Gentile group of people, our unsung hero Simon the Tanner **provided an outworking** of Peter's vision on the rooftop.

Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests. The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along.

Acts 10:23

- In the book of Acts, the **growth** of the Church and the history of the missionary

explosion depend on this event

- Simon risked his new sense of acceptance and opened his home to the Roman messengers who were considered more unclean than even he was.
- Simon understood their longing to know Jesus; he took a step of faith!

So, who are the unclean among us?

- We must know there is no limit to the love of God

We cannot stand in God's way

So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?"

Acts 11:17 (This is the Q for the keys to come up and start playing)

He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

Acts 10:28-29