



“Peter & Cornelius”

Acts 10:1-33

Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel

Intro: Acts 10 shows Jesus reaching people that some would think are beyond reach.

1) Samaritans

- Acts 8:1 - during the persecution in Jerusalem, Philip went to Samaria to preach.
- He did signs and wonders, and many Samaritans turned to the Lord.

2) Ethiopians

- Acts 8:25-40 - Philip explains Isaiah 53 to the Ethiopian eunuch, and he comes to faith.
- He gets baptized, then goes back to Africa. And the gospel spreads.

3) Saul of Tarsus

- Philippians 3:5 - is a Hebrew of the Hebrews. Concerning the law, blameless.
- The Lord reaches out through a vision on the Damascus road and saves him.

4) A Roman centurion named Cornelius

- Acts 10:1-33 - A non-Jewish person. A complete Gentile coming to faith in Christ
- Peter was a little hesitant to go share with Cornelius at first.

Today, we’re going to look at three ways God breaks down our hesitancy to share the gospel.

1. God opens the hearts of those we don’t expect (Acts 10:1-8)
2. God takes us out of our comfort zone (Acts 10:9-23a)
3. God empowers us for impartial kindness (Acts 10:23b-33)

So, let’s start with the first one...

1. God opens the hearts of those we don’t expect (Acts 10:1-8)
2. God takes us out of our comfort zone (Acts 10:9-23)

So, why does Peter get a vision about food?

1. Peter's hungry, so it gets his attention, because it's an immediate need.

- He sees this food and realizes it's not what he as a Jew would normally eat.

2. He's hesitant because he knows he's Jewish, part of the chosen people.

- He's favored to the exclusion of those who are not Jewish

Acts 15:1

Galatians 3:28

1 Peter 1:12

Acts 10:14

Acts 10:4a

Acts 10:15-23a

3. God empowers us for impartial kindness (Acts 10:23b-34)

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. What is the equivalent of calling something "common or unclean" regarding people today?
2. What cultural or traditional "walls" keep you from sharing the love of Christ with certain people?
3. How does God challenge our assumptions about who is "reachable" with the gospel?
4. How do you respond when God nudges you out of your comfort zone?
5. What unbeliever in your circle of friends can you talk to about the Lord?
6. Cornelius had a heart ready to hear (v.33). How can we cultivate this same level of expectancy and readiness when attending church, reading the Bible, or gathering in life group?