

Attentive, Obedient, and Transformed

Acts 10

Metanoia — Repentance:

Meta — beyond, Noia — a way of thinking

“Metanoia therefore involves a paradigm shift, the recognition and rejection of various false frameworks for understanding the world itself and waking up to a whole new world in which Christ is Lord and King.” - Alan Hirsch, pg 7

A case of Double Vision:

Vs 1-7 Cornelius' Spiritual Attentiveness

He was primed to receive a vision from God.

His vision:

- Sees an angel who tells him God knows and sees him and to send for Peter.

His response:

- Told two servants and another soldier *everything*. No shame, no holding back, nothing to hide.

Vs 9-15 Peter's Prayerful Attentiveness

He was doing what Jesus-people do. Praying!

Peter wasn't seeking a vision, he was seeking God.

His vision:

- “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.” Vs 13
- “What God has made clean, do not call impure.” Vs 15
- Three times

His response:

- No way! I would never!

Peter's vision is more complex than Cornelius'.

- Cornelius needs salvation.
- Peter needs an undoing.

Vs 17-33 Humble Obedience

Vs 17 — “ While Peter was deeply perplexed about what this vision might mean”

What he had known his whole life AND the history of his people was crumbling.

Questions: When in your life has one of your “sacred” paradigms started to crumble and you didn't know where it would lead? Do you trust God enough to shake you in a way that may cause some things you hold sacred to change?

Vs 19 In the moment of confusion, Peter still heard the Spirit.

- Get up, go downstairs, and go with them with *no doubts at all*.

Vs 23 Still, with minimal clarity, Peter obeyed.

- Invited them to stay for the night and set out with them in the morning.

Vs 28 Peter's *prejudice* is revealed for what it is: *I must not call any person impure or unclean.*

Vs 29 Peter's *paradigm* has not yet changed: *Why am I here?*

Vs 33 Cornelius tells him everything, but ends with this beautiful, obedient, humble declaration:

“We are all in the presence of God to hear everything you have been commanded by the Lord.”

Questions: In your day to day, even in the mundane, ordinary, life-stuff, are you attentive to the Holy Spirit? Do you believe you can hear him and obey even if your life is completely ordinary?

If situations and/or relationships aren't clear, what do you need to do to hear from God? What tools do you have in place to help you hear from God?

The redemptive story arc is the gospel moved towards the Gentiles, the ends of the earth.

The personal story arc is that one man and his household were ready to hear the gospel.

God's invitation always involves transformation: Repentance — Metanoia!

God invites us as we are, but changes us where we stand.

Cornelius was already a good person — God invited him as he was.

Cornelius had not yet encountered the living Christ — God provided a way to salvation.

Jesus told Peter he would preach to

- Jerusalem - Acts 2
- Samaria - Acts 8
- Ends of the earth - Acts 10

Vs 34-48 Gospel Transformation

Vs 34-35 Peter: Now I truly understand. God doesn't show favoritism. The gospel is for every nation.

Metanoia is change, power, transformation awakening us to Christ and his expanding, glorious kingdom!

Vs 44 Holy Spirit Filling

“Pentecost of the Gentile World”

Vs 48 Fellowship and Family Identity through Baptism

They were clothed with Christ in baptism — Cornelius and his household

“What God has made clean, do not call impure.” Acts 10:15

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church. “Matthew 16:18

Jesus came near and said to them, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:18-19

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Questions: Do you need salvation today? Are you a spiritual person who knows God has not yet experienced transformation through Jesus?

Are you aware of the people in your life who are "good people" open to spiritual conversations? How can you be open to the Spirit to have these conversations with them? This is obedience or disobedience.

What metanoia (repentance, paradigm shift) do you need in order to open your mouth about Jesus? Who is one person and their household you can pray for every day? Will you speak the good news to them when God gives you the opportunity?