

Acts 9:32-10:33 – 5 July 2020

“The Cure For Racial Injustice In Your Heart”

Introduction

Jesus has ordained there to be an “Age of the Church” empowered by His HS where He pours His attention toward THE WHOLE WORLD

Acts 8:1 – Persecution has scattered the church

There are many types of people that are accepting Christ’s payment on the cross for eternal life

Chap 6 – The Gospel came to many priests

Chap 8 – The Gospel came to the Samaritans

Chap 8 – The Gospel came to an Ethiopian man

Chap 9 – The Gospel came to a religious man!

The ultimate racial prejudice is broken in Chap 10

Chap 10 – Gospel will come to a Gentile Roman Centurion

Today, we'll see 4 steps for killing racial injustice within your life

In Chap 8 (Gospel to Samaritans), we saw how God works to provide opportunity, power & understanding for us to witness the Gospel.

Here in chap 10, we see that before God can work, there needs to be a work within OUR OWN hearts

1st Step for killing racial friction w/i you: Live a constant Gospel-offering Life (Chap 9:32-43)

Read Vs 32-35 – *Healing Aeneas' paralysis*

1. W/ death threats on their lives by scoffers in Jerusalem, they abandon scoffers but NOT Gospel.
2. Vs 32 – Peter came to encourage the saints
3. Vs 34 – In healing Aeneas, focus is on Jesus!
4. Vs 35 – Result? People turned not to Peter, but Jesus
5. Peter's not focused on who He's working with or around, but focused on the Gospel

Read Vs 36

1. Tabitha is the Aramaic & Dorcas is the Gk.
2. I think I'd go with the Aramaic

Read Vs 37-38

1. Peter didn't plan to go to Joppa, this is spontaneous.
 - a. But there's an opportunity for the Gospel!!

Read Vs 39-42

1. Both of these miracles are in keeping with the power and practice of Jesus Himself.
 - a. Jesus healed paralytics & raised Jairus' daughter from the dead.
2. Vs 42 - Peter's purpose -bring people to Christ.
3. When you're living a Gospel-centered life, you'll go to cripple people, women or ANYONE.

Read Vs 43

1. Pondering his next move to share Gospel
2. The Lord is preparing him by staying w/ an unclean tanner of hides.

2nd Step for killing racial friction w/i you: Have constant Communion w/ the Lord (Chap 10:1-16)

Vs 1-8 – Cornelius

Read Vs 1-3

1. Israel generally hated these Roman enforcers.
2. There are always godly people in the groups that we're prone to hate.
 - a. Oh, the government or those Iranians!
 - b. Oh, the people that live in THAT neighborhood!

Read Vs 4-6

1. Peter recounts this in chap 11:14 - "He shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do" to be saved!
2. Cornelius' constant prayers were effective!

Read Vs 7-8

1. How did Cornelius overcome his feelings for the Jews? B/c he loved & was devoted to God.
 - a. When you love the Creator, you'll love His special creation, known as all people!

Read Vs 9-10 - *Peter*

1. 3rd and 9th hours are the traditional hours of prayer. Shows Peter's communion w/ God.

Read Vs 11-14

1. "Not so, Lord" – What a contradiction!
2. Saw all types of animals, clean and unclean.
 - a. Clean – Sheep, cows, deer
 - b. Unclean – Pig, shellfish, rabbits
 - c. But he couldn't see that they had all been cleansed or converted by God.

Read Vs 15-16

1. Mosaic Law never said, "Don't eat pig".
 - a. It was "Don't eat unclean animals".
2. This is 3rd time Peter was given something 3x.
 - a. Slow learner....but he did learn.
3. Lord used this to convince Joy to marry me having been divorced and then saved.
4. Only in communion, can God truly change us

3rd Step for killing racial friction w/i you: Get Actively Involved As God Leads (Chap 10:17-23)

Read Vs 17-20

1. So the Lord confirmed for Peter that the vision had to do with these men.
 - a. When in communion w/ God, His Spirit will line up w/ His Word, so when the opportunity arises, you can take it!
2. No great work of God in your heart is easy...
 - a. It will take meditating on God's truth
 - b. It will take attempting something new!

Read Vs 21-23

1. Peter had Romans stay w/ him; another wall falls in the killing of racial friction! Go God!
2. Notice this gave Peter a night to finish praying about what God is about to do for the Gentiles!
3. Peter is presented with this opportunity
 - a. And he chooses to get actively involved!
 - b. Whether it will personally help him or not!

4th Step for killing racial friction w/i you: Speak of the Equality of all Human life (Chap 10:24-33)

Read Vs 24

1. What great faith to have the whole house there!
2. That's what God is looking for, faith in Him!

Read Vs 25-26

1. God deserves to be treated unequally
2. But all people deserve to be treated equally
 - a. Chiefly b/c we're all image-bearers
 - b. Created in image of God to worship Him!
3. Notice Peter didn't just speak empty words of equality, but he "took him up".

Read Vs 27-29

1. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross has the power to declare all people cleansed, but it's up to them to believe it and partake in it!
2. Since the gift of salvation is for all, we should treat everyone equally, as people Christ died for!

Read Vs 30-33

1. Cornelius accepted that God could & would speak to him thru this Jew, Peter.
 - a. It was more important for him to hear from God than to worry about the vessel it came thru
2. Notice the recognition that God uses people to communicate the Gospel and not angels.
 - a. I Peter 1:12 – angels desire to look into the things of salvation. It's wonderful to them!
 - b. Angels are not equal to people.
 - i. They're a little above us and shall be made a little below us (Psm 8)
 - c. *The Gospel is for the people, offered by people and of.....God Himself.*
 - d. Gospel isn't for animals, plants or angels.
 - i. It's for EVERY HUMAN LIFE!
 - ii. We need to offer it equally

Conclusion

So, we've seen 4 Steps for killing racial injustice within your own heart and life

- 1. Live a constant Gospel-offering life**
 - a. You can't be a lover of God and hate people (Just read some I John chap 4)
- 2. Have constant communion with the Lord**
 - a. Feeding on the true Word will wash us from the daily frustrations of the flesh
 - b. Pray & ask the Lord to give you a love
- 3. Get actively involved as God leads**
 - a. You don't know what prejudice you have until you get involved with people.
 - b. Work out your own salvation w/ fear...
- 4. Speak of the equality of ALL human life**
 - a. Do those closest to you hear you speak bad jokes about people groups that you don't like?

God convinced Peter that anyone can be clean, has He convinced you of that?