

Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

The Gospel in Judea – Acts 10:1-8

Sermon Outline

1. Introduction – illustration of the Protestant Reformation
2. Scene 1: Preparing the Recipient
3. Scene 2: Preparing the Messenger
4. Scene 3: Sharing the Message
5. Scene 4: Believing the Message
6. Conclusion – illustration of Dr. Henry Ironsides

Scripture Passages Referenced

- Acts 1:8 – But you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
- Leviticus 11 – laws about dietary restrictions for the people of Israel
- Isaiah 49:6 – I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.
- Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
- John 14:6 - I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
- Romans 5:1 - Therefore since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to realize the magnitude of the shift in God's work in this passage?
- At the same time, why must we realize that God has always been in the business of saving Gentiles?
- In what ways can you relate to Cornelius and his lack of understanding of the gospel?
- What can we learn from Cornelius' devotion to God and leading his family to be devoted to God as well?
- Whom in your life might God be preparing to hear and receive the good news of Christ?
- Why does God use a vision of a sheet with animals to instruct Peter on what He is about to do among the Gentiles?
- How does fulfilling the dietary laws connect with breaking down barriers between Jews and Gentiles?
- In what ways are you like Peter with prejudice or favoritism?
- Do you really believe that God can save all types of people? Are you willing to engage with them so they can hear the good news of Christ?
- Why is it crucial that we understand Peter is not teaching that good works save us or that people can be saved apart from Christ?
- How does the fact that peace is the central part of the gospel message give us hope as sinful people?
- How can you grow in being like Cornelius in being hungry to hear the Word of God?
- What does it look like for you to respond to the good news of Jesus?
- How does the fact that you are viewed as righteous because of Christ instead of filthy because of your sin impact your view of yourself? Your view of God?