

ACTS: The Difficulties of Transition

Sunday, January 14, 2018 | Featuring Dr. Wave Nunnally
Individuals, Groups, and the Kingdom of God in Acts 10

Matthew 13:31-32 [Jesus] presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other seeds; but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants, and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Acts 1:8 "...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 2:5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

Isaiah 60:3 And nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Malachi 1:5, 14 And your eyes will see this and you will say, "The LORD be magnified beyond the border of Israel!" ...for I am a great King," says the LORD of hosts, "and My name will be feared among the nations."

Zechariah 8:23 Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."

Acts 8:1 And on that day a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 8:4 ...those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

Acts 8:5 And Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.

Acts 8:26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Arise and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.)

Acts 8:40 But Philip found himself at Azotus; and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.

Acts 21:8-10 And on the next day we departed and came to Caesarea; and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses. And as we were staying there for some days...

Acts 9:3 And it came about that as [Paul] journeyed, he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

See chapters 22 and 26!

Acts 9:32 Now it came about that as Peter was traveling through all those parts, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.

Acts 9:33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed.

Acts 9:35 And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:36-38 Now in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha..... And it came about at that time that she fell sick and died..... And since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, entreating him, "Do not delay to come to us."

Acts 9:42 And it became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Acts 9:43 And it came about that he stayed many days in Joppa with a certain tanner, Simon.

Acts 10:6...he is staying with a certain tanner named Simon, whose house is by the sea.

Acts 10:1 Now there was a certain man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort...

Acts 10:24 And on the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Acts 10:3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in to him, and said to him, "Cornelius!"

Acts 10:9 And on the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.

Acts 10:10 And he became hungry, and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance...

Acts 10:11-14 ...and he beheld the sky opened up, and a certain object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground. and there were in it ALL kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures [*Leviticus 5:2*] of the earth and birds of the air. And a voice came to him, "Arise, Peter, kill and eat!" But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."

Acts 10:15-17 And again a voice came to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." And this happened three times; and immediately the object was taken up into the sky. Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate.

Acts 10:23-24 And so he invited them in and gave them lodging. And on the next day he arose and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. And on the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Acts 10:25 And when it came about that Peter entered...

Acts 11:2-3 And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those who were circumcised took issue with him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."

Take-Away Points

- 1) *What God promises/predicts, He fulfills!*
- 2) *The Good News is not limited to certain locations, language groups, or ethnic groups!*
- 3) *The Kingdom of God is not limited to certain locations, language groups, or ethnic groups!*
- 4) *God often calls us to stuff that stretches us and pushes us outside our comfort zone.*
- 5) *Whenever God guides us into periods of difficult transitions, He goes ahead of us and lays the groundwork for this next stage to succeed.*
- 6) *Whatever God guides us into, He empowers/enables us to walk into it.*
- 7) *God's plans for us are not weird, random, or glitchy. If we have submitted to His rule in our lives, He guides our lives and makes them a part of His big-picture plan to redeem a people for Himself.*
- 8) *We and our relationship with God are downstream from events of Acts 8 and 9, and ESPECIALLY chapter 10. Had these people not said "yes" and taken the Good News to people NOT LIKE THEM, we probably wouldn't be sitting where we are right now! Let's give thanks for their obedience, then FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE!*
- 9) *"Backstory" (context) ALWAYS provides perspective and clarity to ANY communication, but it's especially important when dealing with eternal things like reading, understanding, and applying the message of Scripture. Let's renew our commitment to read God's Word IN CONTEXT! After all, we want the Word of GOD, not the word of MAN! Only HIS word has the power to transform us and set us free!!!*