

Series: The Unstoppable Church (8/19/18am)

Title: The First Gentile Christian

Text: (Acts 10)

ESPN Sports Center! ESPN Highlights!

ESPN Plays of the Week!

Facebook: Personal highlight reel of our lives.
We get to live some of your best moments with you!

The book of Acts is our History Book

The book of Acts is our Operations Manual

Acts is the Highlight Reel of the 1st century Believers

Its not everything that went on, but the Big moments.

(Acts 10) is a Big Moment!

I. The Vision from God to a Gentile: (Vs 1)

Caesarea: Named by Herod the great to honor Caesar
Residence & headquarters of the Roman Procurator of
the region & the military garrison of the Roman Army

a centurion: He was a Roman Soldier.

Promoted from a common soldier or Legionaire,
through the ranks to Centurion, over 15-20yr service
He had seen battle.

He had fought from the frontline & survived.

He rose through the ranks through Brains & Braun.

He was Tough, Seasoned, A Shrewd Strategist.

He was Nobodies Fool & Nobody to be fooled with!

a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

A **band** was a tenth of a legion (5000), 480 men
Cornelius was one of the senior military officers there

2 A devout man, (He was Pious)

& one that feared God with all his house,

(He revered the Jewish God, follower of Judaism)

which gave much alms to the people, (Charitable)

and prayed to God alway. (Self Explanatory)

He knew about God, but didn't know God personally.

He followed the Rituals: (Vs 3) *9th hour 3pm prayers.*

But he didn't know the Savior the Rituals pointed too.

(Vs 3) God Knows Your NAME!

God SEES and HEARS YOU!

God reaches out to us personally.

(Vs 4a) What is it, Lord? (Master)-Not God

He did not know God personally.

He knew about God through Rituals, not Revelation.

Are you like Cornelius?

*Do you only know **About** God, thru ritual & tradition*

Christianity is not Rituals to Repeat:

(Matt 6:7) *when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as
the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard
for their much speaking.*

**Christianity is not Rules to Regard, but a Relationship
to Rejoice In:**

(Matt 6:9) *After this manner therefore pray ye: **Our
Father** which art in heaven, **Hallowed be thy name.***

We are to speak to Him, as we do our earthly parents.
We have a Relationship.

Cornelius was taught the Rituals, Rites, & Rules:
But he did not have a Relationship with God.

Is this you? Are you trusting in Rituals, Rites, Rules?
(Titus 3:5; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 4:5) Not By Works.
(John 3:3,5,7) You Must Be Born Again!
(1Jn 5:1) *He that believeth Jesus is the Christ is born..*

(Vs 4b) Memorial:

He wanted to know God.
God saw His heart was Open & Seeking God
God heard & remembered his prayers.
God wanted to answer his prayers.

(Vs 5)

Robert Creech: Missionary to Panama, He met 1
woman who was seeking God, & asking God for
someone to come & tell them about God.

Pray for a Family & Friends far away!

Pray for a Community!

Pray for a Country!

In heaven we will know the results of your prayers.

(Vs 6) he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

(Vs 7) The soldier would keep the servants from
being hassled along the way.

Explain: Why the Angels cannot testify of the Gospel.

(Vs 8) A Soldier: Cornelius knew how to obey orders
When God sees a willing heart, he sends a Witness.

II. The Vision from God to an Apostle:

(Vs 9) On the Roof at Noon

(Vs 10) Is it hard for you to focus when your hungry?
Trance: His mind wandered to food!

My mind wanders to food when I pray hungry?
(Vs 11) (The First Use of a Flannel Graph Visual)

(Vs 12-14) Unclean Animals.

The Jews had been given dietary restrictions as part of
the Law of Moses.
God spelled out in detail what they could/couldn't eat.

Explain Ceremonially Unclean. A picture of sin.
They had a Cleansing ritual they had to go through.
Otherwise, they couldn't be with family, or worship.

Illus: Eating a donut & calculating your workout time.

Peter had never eaten anything that he saw there.
NO JEW WOULD!

(Vs 15) * If I Cleanse it, Its no longer Unclean****
It's not that it wasn't unclean before, its been cleansed

bumper sticker: *Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven*

Its not that we are not sinners. WE ARE!
We are Dead without Christ.

Its not that we don't deserve to spend eternity in hell.
WE DO! BUT! (John 3:16) (Rom 1:16) POWER

(1 Cor 6:9-11) ***God has changed our Identity!***
From Stranger to Family!
From Orphan to God's Child!

(Eph 2:19) ***God has changed our Status!***
From Strangers & Foreigner to Citizen!

Its not that we weren't all those things, BUT NOW!
God has Cleansed us. ***We Are Clean!*** (Jn 15:3)
This is the Lesson Peter is about to Learn.
This is the Lesson the Jews are about to learn.
Is this a Lesson YOU need to learn?

(Vs 16) ***This was done thrice:***
Do you ever have to repeat yourself to your kids?
Barage your kids with NO's, Come Here's, Sh's

Why does it take Peter 3 times to get it?
Traditions dictated his Doctrine, not Scripture.
His Race dictated his Doctrines & Affiliations.
Jews considered Gentiles: DOGS, worthless.

As a Christian,
We are NOT to let our Race dictate our Doctrine!

We are NOT to let our Race dictate our Morality!
We are NOT to let our Race dictate our Political view
We are NOT to let our Race dictate our Associations.

According to society, Peter/Cornelius were enemies.
Social Barriers, Economic Barriers,

We are NOT to let our Race dictate our Identity.
We are NOT to let the deviants dictate our Identity.
God tells us WHAT we are, WHOSE we are.

God has completely Redefined Our Identity!
(2 Cor 5:17) *If any man be in Christ, he is a new*

God had to tell Peter 3 times, & he still didn't get it!
How many times does it take for us to get it?
How many times have you been close to getting it, but
your Traditions, & love for Rituals blind you to God?
Our Race, Political Affiliations, Etc blinded us to God
(2 Cor 4:3-4)

(Vs 17-18) **Peter doubted in himself what this vision
which he had seen should mean,**
Even after a Divine Vision: Peter is still not getting it.
Comforting to know, we are not the only ones.
That's why we will need repetition also.

III. The Command from God to an Apostle:
(Vs 19-20) The Holy Spirit breaks it down for Peter.
I sent them, now Git!

(Vs 21) I am Hear, Whats Up?

(Vs 22) *send for thee into his house, & to hear words of thee.* (Ro 10:13-15,17) They need a witness

(Vs 23) Peter lodges Gentiles in a Jewish home.
God breaks down the Barriers

Peter doesn't care

(Vs 24) *Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends.*

The Gospel Empowers People to Serve!

Cornelius invites his entire social network.

Illus: Maybe you don't see yourself as a Street Preaching, or Door to Door Soul Winner.

I get it! How Bout we target our Friends & Family.

(Vs 25) *Cornelius met him, & fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.*

Cornelius is acting according to his current understanding from his current faith tradition.

Jupiter,

Neptune (god of the sea),

Pluto (god of the underworld) and Juno

Nemesis, the god of revenge;

Cupid, the god of love;

Pax, the god of peace;

Furies, goddesses of vengeance.

All depicted in the form of Men & Women.

A lot of people come to our church that do not have a lot of biblical knowledge.

They come to us with their understanding shaped by their previous faith traditions.

(Vs 26-27) Cornelius used his influence for good!
Peter addresses his current cultural understanding
According to society, Peter & Cornelius were enemies

(Vs 28) *but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.*

It took Him 3 days, & 28 mi, but Peter finally Gets It!

The Gospel Breaks Down Barriers

There were certain food that were unclean.

There were certain people who were unclean.

Gentiles, they were not supposed to associate with!

Why is this a big deal?

Breaking down the Barrier to the Gospel happens here Acts 10, makes the spread of the Gospel possible.

Acts 11-28 is b/c of the barriers Peter breaks down.

The Jews did not believe that the worship of God was for anyone else but Jews.

Do you think that God is only for a certain type of people?

Macho Men think it is only for Old Women & Children

Do you think that a relationship with God is not for you? ***Why?***

Do you think that its not possible for You b/c _____.
God can make Clean any Unclean Thing!!!

You are a Sinner.
You are headed to Hell!
But God is intervening!

33AD @ Calvary. 11:45am @ FBCK!

(Vs 29) 1st step in Witnessing, is find out where they are spiritually.

Cornelius Recounts His Experience: (Vs 30)

(He Prayed to & Worshipped a God he didn't know)

He isn't much different than most people.

Many people call themselves Christian, but they do not know Him personally as their savior.

They are Not born again.

Some people are born again, but don't know Him as a person.

&, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

I experienced something I can't explain.

This happens to a lot of people.

This is the time many seek the Lord.

(Vs 31-33) OK Buddy, You're On!

They were ready to hear!

Their heart was open to the truth.

IV. The Gospel is Presented to the Gentiles:

(Vs 34) Peter had to learn this first.

We are to be breaking down these barriers also.

(Vs 35) *is accepted with him.*

We are not the only one's.

ALL christians are just as much a child of God as me.

Don't confuse Culture and Doctrine.

None of our Kenyan sister churches have a piano.

But they sing music that honors God.

Accepting others is the key to spreading the Gospel.

(Vs 36) The Entire OT taught us about Jesus:

(Vs 37) John the Baptist was the Fore-runner to Jesus.

He was sent to prepare the way for Jesus.

(Vs 38) Baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.

The Holy Spirit descending upon Him.

(Vs 38b)

The witness of the Miracles were a confirmation of ...

Who He said He was.

What He said He would do.

39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews,

We lived with Him for 3 1/2 years.

We heard all the messages, miracles, & majesty.

and in Jerusalem;

His presented himself to the Pharisees for scrutiny.

whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

We Witnessed the Crucifixion.

40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; (Rom 1:16) (1 Cor 15:1-2a-4)

41 Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

We Witnessed the Resurrected Christ.

We Witnessed His Resurrected Body.

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead. (Acts 1:8)

Witnesses testify of what they have experienced.

We were commanded to testify of what we have seen.

43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

He is the fulfillment of the OT Prophecies.

The Savior who takes away the penalty of our sin.

(Give The Gospel)

(John 3:16, Romans Road) (Jn 14:6)

(Acts 4:12) *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

V. The Confirmation of the Holy Ghost: (Vs 44-45)

Why is this a Big Deal?

The Jews are the only ones who had the Word of God, the Knowledge of the only God there is.

(Vs 46-47) Tongues are a sign gift.

Here, it is a sign to the Christian Jews that the Gentiles are just as saved as they are.

(Vs 15) *** **If I Cleanse it, Its no longer Unclean****

It's not that it wasn't unclean before, its been cleansed

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Didn't leave them to flounder, but lead them to follow Christ.

The first step of following Christ is Baptism.

Then stayed with them several days and taught them to walk with Christ.

First Church Planted in Judea.

(Acts 1:8) Jerusalem, Judea, & Samaria

(Acts 13-28) The Uttermost Parts of the Earth