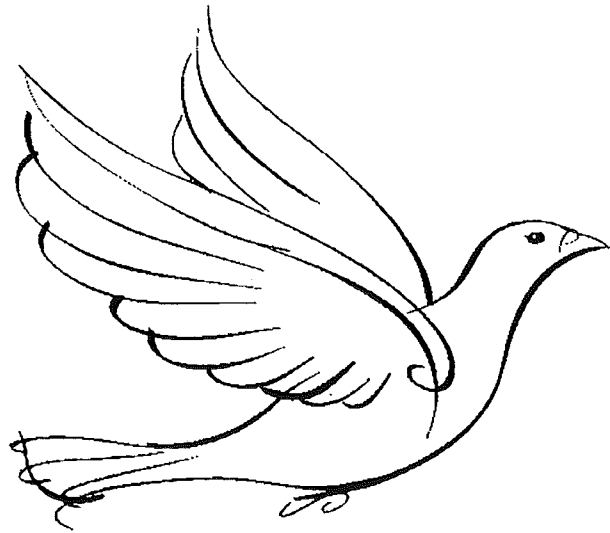


THE CAESAREA OUTPOURING

(How Gentiles Received The Baptism In The Holy Spirit)
Acts 10:34-46



THE WORD OF THE LORD

- ◆ To Cornelius (Verses 1-8)
- ◆ To Peter (Verses 9-23)
- ◆ To Gentiles (Verses 24-48)

“While Peter spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the Word...and the Jews were astonished because the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles also...for they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God” (Acts 10:44-46)

Bill Kirk

“THE CAESAREA OUTPOURING”

Text: Acts 10:1-46

Subject: The Lord At Work In Caesarea (And The Lord At Work In You)

Introduction

1. Acts 10 is pivotal in the life of the church.
2. It records how salvation traveled from the Jews (In Acts 2) to the Samaritans (In Acts 8) and now to the Gentiles (In Acts 10)
3. Its an account of how God opened the door to bring Gentiles (Non-Jewish believers) into His family – the church.
4. Its an account that is real and speaks to all of us.

Question: What’s the message of Acts, chapter 10?

Answer: It’s a message for each of us:

- ◆ How God is at work behind the scenes of your life.
- ◆ How God leads one step at a time.
- ◆ How God rewards obedience with great blessing.
- ◆ How God accepts anyone who turns to Him.
- ◆ How God forgives the person who truly repents.
- ◆ How God pours out His Spirit on all who are thirsty.

Question: How many of you want to follow the leading of the Lord?

Question: How many of you want to live obedient to the will of God?

Question: How many of you want to enjoy the power of a clear conscience, through forgiveness of every sin?

Question: How many of you want to be full of the Holy Spirit so you can do what God wants you to do?

(Acts Chapter 10 Is One Message In 3 Parts)

- #1. There is the Word of the Lord to Cornelius.
- #2. There is the Word of the Lord to Peter.
- #3. There is the Word of the Lord to the Gentiles.

- ◆ All with deep meaning!
- ◆ All with good news!
- ◆ All with practical application!

I. The Word Of The Lord To Cornelius (Vs. 1-8)

Question: Who did God visit one day?

Answer: A man named Cornelius in Caesarea.

Question: Who was Cornelius?

Answer: He was a centurion (a Roman soldier in charge of 100 men).

- ◆ Highly honored for special service to Caesar.

Question: What does Luke say about Cornelius?

Answer: In Acts 10: 2 & 3:

- #1. He was devout (or had reverence for God).

- #2. He was God fearing (and took God very seriously).
- #3. He was generous (and gave much to help people).
- #4. He was praying (or consistently spent time in prayer). (Very religious – but not born again or saved).

Question: What happens to Cornelius one ordinary day?

- Answer:**
- ◆ In verse 3, God gives him a vision of an angel.
 - ◆ In verse 4, the angel says “Cornelius, your praying and giving is being noticed by God”.
 - ◆ In verse 5, “Send some men down to Joppa to find a man named Simon Peter”.
 - ◆ In verse 6, “Simon is staying with Simon the tanner, a leather worker, tell him, Cornelius, to come and visit you”.

Question: What does Cornelius do with this Word from the Lord?

Answer: (Verse 7), “As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius calls two of his servants, one of his soldiers and tells these 3 to go to Joppa and find Simon Peter”.

Question: What does Cornelius do with these instructions?

Answer: He sends the 3 to Joppa (30 miles away) without hesitation.

Question: How in the world will these 3 men find Simon Peter in Joppa some 30 miles away?

Answer: They will find Peter because of 2 things:

- #1. We are responsible to do what we can see is God’s will in the present, (and)
- #2. God is responsible to do what we can’t see just yet.

(#1. There is the Word of the Lord to Cornelius)

II. The Word Of The Lord To Peter (Vs. 9-23)

Question: What happens in Joppa (30 miles away) while (out of obedience) Cornelius’ 3 men travel from Caesarea?

Answer: God was preparing Peter (for things he knew nothing of).

- ◆ I call this – the **timing** of the Lord!
- ◆ I call it – the **wisdom** of the Lord!
- ◆ I call it – Divine preparation **ahead of time!**
- ◆ I call it – **God has a way** where there seems to be no way!
- ◆ I call it – God knows **what** you need, before you know you need it!
- ◆ I call it – God knows **so much more** than you are aware of today!

Question: What’s the Word of the Lord to Peter?

Answer: It’s a word to show you how God has a way to save every one of your family members.

- ◆ In verse 9, Peter goes to prayer at 12 noon.
- ◆ In verses 10-16, the Lord gives Peter a vision of clean (and unclean) animals to eat.
- ◆ In verse 14, Peter objects to eating what he considers unclean.
- ◆ In verse 15, the Lord says, “What God has cleansed, call not thou common”.

Question: Why this vision from the Lord to Peter?

Answer: Because Peter was a strict Orthodox Jew:

- ◆ Peter considered the Gentiles in Caesarea as unclean.
- ◆ Peter considered the Gentiles as aliens and strangers.
- ◆ Peter considered the Gentiles as outsiders of God’s redemptive plan.

Question: So what is God saying to Peter?

Answer: He is saying to Peter (and to us):

- #1. God loves the Jew and the Gentile both and wants them both to be saved.
- #2. God has broken down the wall between Jew and Gentile through the cross of Jesus.
- #3. God's church is all inclusive; for in Christ there are no classes, sects, upper class, middle class, or lower class people.

(Galatians 3:28)

“For there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, for ye are all one in Christ Jesus”.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The vision from the Lord is preparing Peter (the Jew) to take the gospel to Cornelius (the Gentile) and expand the borders of the Lord's church.

Question: What happens at the exact time that the Lord gives the vision to Peter?

Answer: (Acts 10:17) – While Peter is praying, the 3 men who traveled 30 miles from Caesarea knock at the door where Peter is staying:

- ◆ In verse 18, They ask, “Is Peter here?”
- ◆ In verse 19, “The Lord said, Peter, 3 men are looking for you”.
- ◆ In verse 20, “The Lord said, Peter, go with the 3 men for I have sent them to you”.

Question: And what does Peter (the Jew) do?

Answer: He obeys the Lord and says “Yes Lord”.

- ◆ In verse 21, “I'm the one you're looking for”.
- ◆ In verse 22, “Cornelius has sent for you Peter”.
- ◆ In verse 23, “Peter takes 6 men and heads to Cornelius' house” (30 miles away in Caesarea),
- ◆ In verse 25, “Peter is welcomed by Cornelius”.
- ◆ In verse 27, “Many have gathered together to hear Peter”.
- ◆ In verse 29, Peter asks, “Why have you sent for me?”
- ◆ In verse 32, Cornelius says, “The Lord told me to call for you because you would have a message just for us”.
- ◆ In verse 33, “Now Peter, we are all here present before God to hear the things that God has given you to say”.

(And In Verse 34, “Then Peter Opened His Mouth”)

Question: What's the message from the Lord to Cornelius and all that are with him?

Question: What's the message from the Lord to all of us today?

(Remember Beloved)

- ◆ Cornelius, the respected soldier, is religious, but not saved.
- ◆ He's a good man but he needs to hear from Peter, (the message from the Lord).

(In Fact)

(Pg. 3 of 6)

- ◆ Cornelius' exact words to Peter are recorded in Acts 11:13, 14 where Peter rehearses them to those back in Jerusalem.

(Notice What The Angel Said To Cornelius In Acts 11:13)

(Verse 13), "Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon Peter".

(Verse 14), "Who shall tell thee words whereby you and all your house shall be saved".

(So The Table Is Set)

- #1. The Lord tells Cornelius to send for Peter.
- #2. The Lord tells Peter to go to Cornelius' house when they send for him in Joppa.
- #3. Peter travels the 30 miles, and stands in front of Cornelius, his relatives and his friends.
(Acts 10:24)

III. Now The Word Of The Lord To The Gentiles (Vs. 24-48)

Question: What's the Word of the Lord (the revelation of God) from God to every listener here today?

Question: What was Peter's message to Cornelius and the audience?

Question: What was the one message that God gave to Peter to speak to the Gentile world?

Question: What is God saying to you and me?

**(Verse 34) Peter Opened His Mouth And Said:
And God Reveals To You...**

#1. The Favor Of The Lord

(Verse 34) "Of a truth, I perceive that God is **no respecter of persons**"

Question: What does it mean, "God is no respecter of persons"?

Answer: Peter thought that someone must become a full-fledged Hebrew before they could receive the power of Jesus.

- ◆ But now his vision comes into full meaning.
- ◆ As God had saved Peter and baptized him in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost,
- ◆ God was now revealing to Peter in Caesarea (with non-Jewish people) that God wants to save them and baptize them in the Spirit as well.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ No partiality ◆ No favorites ◆ No prejudice
- ◆ No discrimination because of nationality, race, appearance, position, possessions, health, ability, background or past sins.

Question: What is God saying here?

Answer: Simply, that Jesus has died and risen again for all!

- ◆ He will accept anyone who accepts His Son's work at Calvary.
- ◆ You, my friend, are not "Better than" or "Less than" anyone else in the family of God!

Question: How many of you "Thank God" for the favor of the Lord?

#2. The Fear Of The Lord

(Verse 35), "But in every nation he that **feareth Him**, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him".

Question: What pleases God?

Answer: #1. Those who fear the Lord (and),
#2. Those who are righteous and live righteous.

#1. The fear of the Lord is a steadfast disposition that takes God extremely serious in every area of my life.

#2. Righteousness is both a state and a process:

- ◆ We are righteous (because of the work of the cross),
- ◆ We live righteous (because we are grateful for the work of the cross).

Question: How many of you "Thank God" for the fear of the Lord and the righteousness of the Lord because of the Cross of Jesus?

#3. The Faithfulness Of The Lord

(Verse 38), "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil".

Question: What's the liberating message to those in Caesarea (and here today?)

Answer: That Jesus is so anointed by the Holy Spirit, that He can free anyone who is oppressed by the devil:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| ◆ Evil spirits | ◆ Fear of the unknown |
| ◆ Demonic influence | ◆ Panic attacks |
| ◆ Alcoholic bondage | ◆ Obsessive worry |
| ◆ Drug addiction | ◆ Bitterness and resentments |
| ◆ Nicotine addiction | ◆ Lust and sensuality |
| ◆ Pornography addiction | ◆ Temper and fits of rage |
| ◆ Unresolved anger | ◆ Compromise with secret sin |

Question: What is Peter's message?

Answer: That God has anointed Jesus to heal all who are oppressed by the devil!!!

Question: How many of you "Thank God" that the power of the Spirit is greater than the power of sin?

#4. The Forgiveness Of The Lord

(Verse 43), "To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive forgiveness of sins".

Question: What's the good news today?

Answer: That, all who repent and ask God for forgiveness, receive the forgiveness of sins!

Question: What is forgiveness?

Answer: It is God "Sending away, or removing, or covering your sin once and for all"

- ◆ It is God forgiving your sin (in Christ) so that your guilty conscience becomes free and clear.

(Hebrews 10:17)

"And your sins and iniquities will I remember no more"

Question: How many of you "Thank God" that your sin has been buried in the sea of God's forgetfulness? (Pg. 5 of 6)

#5. The Fire Of The Lord

(Verse 44), "While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the Word"

(Verse 45), "The six men with Peter (Jews) were amazed because God poured out His Spirit on the Gentiles"

(Verse 46), "For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God".

Question: What did God do?

Answer: He cut Peter's sermon short because He saw the hunger of the people!!!

- ◆ He poured His Spirit out upon the Gentiles.
- ◆ He baptized everyone in the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ He empowered the Caesareans like He did the Jews in (Acts 2) and the Samaritans (in Acts 8).

Question: What was Peter's response?

Answer: (Verse 45), "And those of the circumcision (Peter and the six Jews who traveled with him) were astonished" (Why?)

- ◆ Because God poured out His Spirit on those regarded as uncircumcised outsiders.

(10 Years After The Initial Outpouring On The Day Of Pentecost)

Question: How many of you "Thank God" that God is still pouring out His Spirit on everyone who is hungry and thirsty?

- ◆ Peter couldn't orchestrate all this,
- ◆ He could just experience and testify to those back in Jerusalem what God was doing:

(Acts 11:15,16)

"As I was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on them all as on us at the beginning (on the Day of Pentecost)" "Then I remembered the Word of the Lord, how He had said, John baptized with water, **but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit**".

Conclusion

(What's the good news to your heart today?)

- #1. The **Favor** of the Lord (no partiality).
- #2. The **Fear** of the Lord (to live righteously).
- #3. The **Faithfulness** of the Lord (over the power of sins power to destroy you).
- #4. The **Forgiveness** of the Lord (for those who repent and turn).
- #5. The **Fire** of the Lord (to live Spirit-filled).

Altar Call
AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

(Pg. 6 of 6)