**Un|Done:** God’s redemption plan reconcile to all people

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| 10.25-26.14 | MHC | Acts 10:23-48 | There is no partiality in God or his people | 30 Min |

**Introduction: Isaac Bevans** (A-1)my realization God is for all people. No waiting.

Turn in your Bibles to Acts 10. Page 919. **Summary of last week | Context:**

**One of the greatest redemption stories recorded in the bk of Acts**: Most of the other conversion stories are between 1-14 verses. Saul’s story, retold 3 times, takes up 34 verses.

* (theme) This story takes up 66 verses. This shows the significance of the HS coming.
* The HS coming to dwell with men is the most significant story in Acts (chap 2).
* (Relv) The fact that HS came to dwell with Gentiles is of great importance to US!

**This is the story of Peter seeing the vision given to him by God demonstrating no partiality**; Then he was invited (by men) and instructed (by God) to go preaches the Gospel to Gentiles & HS would be given to them. Cornelius and fam. saved; 1st Gentiles

* God sees all: **The first 8 verses of ch. 10** tell us about Cornelius and his favor in God’s eyes so an angel came to him and instructed him to send for Simon Peter.
* God has a bigger plan: 9-16 Peter saw a vision three times of unclean animals portrayed on a sheet; the Lord told him to kill and eat the animals. No partiality.
* God’s timing is everything: 17-23 While Peter was trying to make sense of it, men from 31m away came to get him. God was like “Now… go… the door is for you.”

23-33 **Prejudice Walls Broken**: Jews & Gentile Meet Under God’s Direction

* **The next day** indicates that there was no hesitation, where there could have been.
* This was about a 2-day walk from **Joppa** to Caesarea up the coastline (Map: 31 m).
  + I stood outside the place they think this happened; I imagine the excitement
* In Acts 11, when Peter recounts, he said, “These **6 brothers** also accompanied me.”

**And on the following day they entered Caesarea”** as Pastor Mike Mentioned, 3rd largest port in Roman Empire at that time. Built by Herod, named after Caesar. Big City!

* **Previously mentions**: **Acts 8, Philip came here to preach**, risking life. Seeds planted. **Ch. 9, Paul was sent here** for His safety to get him way from mad Jews.
* **Future mentions**: **Acts 18:22** Paul returned and **greets the church**, so we see that a church was established there after this; **Acts 23-27, Paul’s jail time and trial**.
* **My excitement in Caesarea last Spring**: Ran to see Swindoll. Same as Corn’s men

**Cornelius Meet’s Peter**: A powerful man bowing down at the feet of a Jew.

* They were different: **Cornelius**—Gentile, Wealthy, Powerful, Military man; **Peter**—Jew, poor, “Rebel”, Fisherman. God wanted for both of them to be in same family.
* The act of Cornelius **bowing at Peter’s feet** may have caused Peter to grow prideful—a Roman centurion was bowing before a Jew. Instead of Peter pointed in Cornelius to Christ. APP: We too must remember our morality whenever we are flattered or honored as we use this opportunity to give glory to God (cf: 1 Peter 5:5)
* It was **against the oral Jewish law for a Jew to be with the Gentiles** because they were seen as unclean because of what they ate and religious/non-religious practices.
  + Food Types we consider unclean: Tongue taco, Fried Brain Sand, Century Egg
* End of vs 28—**“God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.”** This was said by God 3x in his vision, Peter got it. God broke through.

**God was fulfilling his plan,** despite the comfort level of those involved in fulfilling it (vv 24-33) Ill: Mahatma Gandhi visits church (A-2) comfort got in way

* V 29 – Peter: “when I was sent for, I came right away, now let me hear your side.”
* vv 30-33 Cornelius explains his side a sum of vs 3-8. Showed he obeyed God quickly
* 33: “Now we are in the presence of God to hear what he commanded you!” A person that has truly heard form God will want to know quickly what God has said.
  + Ryan’s recent experience with God speaking to Him and longing for the Bible.

34-43 **The Gospel is for Everyone**: Peter Preaches a Gospel for All People

* **Peter preaches to the people gathered there at the house**. He had to preach – if he didn’t how would they hear? Cornelius knew so he said, “Go on… preach to us!”
* **Vs 34** - HUGE statement: **God shows no partiality**. (underline your Bible). We see this elsewhere in Scripture:
  + **Luke 20:21**, “we know that you speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality”
  + **Romans 2:11**, “For God shows no partiality.” (same as vs. 34 - Say it with me)
  + **Ephesians 6:9**, “Your [Master] is in heaven…there is no partiality with him.”
  + **2 Chor 19:7**, “There no injustice with the Lord…or partiality or taking bribes.”

**There is no partiality in God – the Gospel of Jesus is proof of God’s power to forgive ALL who believe (vv. 34-43). DEFINITIONS:**

* **Peter was preaching “The Gospel of Jesus Christ”**: The good news for sinners who were once opposed to God in their sin are now welcomed into his family through the atoning sacrifice of God’s own son Jesus Christ.
  + The **good news** was the **peace through Jesus.** This is what everyone needs! All humankind needs peace, ultimately with God. God didn’t come to point a crocked accusing finger but rather to extend a welcoming hand of peace.
  + The message that Peter gives here is a summary of what Jesus did in his earthy ministry, and the eternal impact of it.
  + The Gospel of Christ is not complete without a mention of the fact that Jesus was raised from the dead. In verse 40 Peter makes it clear that it was by the **power of God** that **Jesus raised on 3rd day** and appeared again. Peter saying, “I saw him with my own eyes.” App: your story is a powerful way to “witness”
* (trans) It is only by God’s grace that a person can be saved and reconciled unto God. He enlightens wicked hearts to His love and mercy and reconciles them to Himself.
* **Peter was answering, “Who is it for?” Everyone! Define**: All people (Rom 8:28) are wicked and in need of reconciliation with God. Everyone needs to the gospel to be reconciled with God. ILL: think of 1 person you know who needs JC. Pray now!

v. 42 The Command: Peter got his mission: **he was to communicate to all people that Jesus was appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead**. Simply put: he is the only key to reconciliation to God, He judges who is in and who is not.

* **Romans 10:14 ESV “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” –** This is our role too!

**There is no partiality in God and there should be any in us!**

We should not see anyone further from the grace of God then where God has places us.

EMRY in the Starbucks in Chicago with Ryan. **We are told not show any partiality:**

* **Deuteronomy 16:19**, “You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe”
* **1 Timothy 5:21**, “In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality.”
* **James 2:1**, “My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory.”

**Listen, I don’t care where you’ve been you need Jesus! SHARE GOSPEL NOW!**

I love transformation stories that are dramatic and have a big “aha” moment at the end of an event (alter call). But I also like it when someone tells me that God came to them in the stillness of their heart, or in the middle of a message and everything just “clicked.” God moves whenever God wants to move. Lynne’s story of girl at the TL. Wall.

**Sharing the Gospel doesn’t have to be long and technical**, it can be direct, short and spirit-led to call people to faith and then give them the gift of forgiveness. Candy bars

* Peter’s precise recount of the gospel made clear that: (1) Christ lived a perfect life of servant hood to God; (2) His death on the Cross was for us; (3) His resurrection proved the power of God; (4) There were personal witnesses;
* (5) this was the fulfillment of the prophets; **All the prophets bear witness** means all people, including the words of those in the past. Similar in idea to **Acts 3:18, “ [18] But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.”**
* (6) it demands our personal faith: The gospel is both divine sovereignty and human responsibility. We are to **believe in him** and when we do that we **receive forgiveness of sins**. This is the grace of God given to us. This grace only comes **through His name.** This is the good news of Jesus!

**44-48 God with ALL of us:** The Holy Spirit Fills the Gentiles

* **The Holy Spirit fell** on them and filled their heart, in the same way He did at Pentecost. This **amazed the believers in Christ that were circumcised (Jews)** as they new were seeing God’s grace given to people outside “the chosen people.”
  + Have you **ever felt like, “this person is too far gone, they will never hear the truth of Christ.”** This is wrong for us to think this way; there is no partiality in God. This was a paradigm shift for the Jews. God gives mercy freely
* **The Holy Spirit coming to the Gentiles was a seal that their salvation was real**. The fact that they had not followed any Mosaic ceremonial laws (such as circumcision, sacrifice, and dietary restrictions) before receiving the gift of the Spirit is an important point, for them and soon becomes evident for Jews (11:15–17). They were not saved on their own righteousness but solely on the righteousness of Christ.
* There was a visible and audible impact of the Spirit on the people: **speaking in tongues.** This was not a spiritual language but like chapter 2. Imagine that moment!
* **We know that Baptism is the outward sign of the inward transformation**. It is a public way to say, “I am all in” and to show that you understand you are “dead in your sins and alive in Christ.” – Ill: Ryan wanting to get baptized right way.
  + **Notice the proximity of faith to their baptism** – as soon as they had believed.
* Then notice that **they asked him to stay for a few days.** This was against tradition, but that didn’t matter any more. They were all a part of God’s family now. They could stay together and eat together and it was all-acceptable to them and to God.

**No Partiality in God**: Remember Saul – Jew of Jews, he wrestled with the idea of the God of Israel – Ab, Is, Jcb – granting salvation to Gentiles. Yet, he got it. In **Romans 11** (A-3) he made it clear that it was by God’s grace we’ve been grafted in – explain and read.

**No Partiality in Us**: Just as God has accepted us, we must also accept all. We should not count anyone further from God’s grace than how he sees us. **Welcome home.**

(A-1) Isaac Bevans

* Hanging on the wall of the Arapahoe gym is a framed basketball jersey, number 31
* The summer after his sophomore year, in 1998, Bevans died in a car accident

(a-2) **Mahatma Gandhi** wrote in his autobiography that during his student days in America, he read the Gospels and seriously considered converting to Christianity. So one Sunday, he decided to attend a nearby church and talk to the minister. But when he arrived, the usher refused to give him a seat and suggested he go worship with his own people. He said he left the church and decided, “If Christians have a caste system, I might as well remain a Hindu.”

(A-3) **ROMANS 11** (with my highlights):

[17] But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, [18] do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. [19] Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” [20] That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith**. So do not become proud, but fear.** [21] For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. [22] Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. [23] And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. [24] For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.