

Feb 16, 2014

Teaching Notes

Series: Being the Church
Week Seven

Acts 10:1-28 (NLT) ¹ In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment.² He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God.³ One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said.⁴ Cornelius stared at him in terror. "What is it, sir?" he asked the angel. And the angel replied, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been received by God as an offering!⁵ Now send some men to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter.⁶ He is staying with Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore."⁷ As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier, one of his personal attendants.⁸ He told them what had happened and sent them off to Joppa.

⁹ The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon,¹⁰ and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.¹¹ He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners.¹² In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds.¹³ Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them."¹⁴ "No, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean."¹⁵ But the voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean."¹⁶ The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven.¹⁷ Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean? Just then the men sent by Cornelius found Simon's house. Standing outside the gate,¹⁸ they asked if a man named Simon Peter was staying there.¹⁹ Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, "Three men have come looking for you."²⁰ Get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation. Don't worry, for I have sent them."²¹ So Peter went down and said, "I'm the man you are looking for. Why have you come?"²² They said, "We were sent by Cornelius, a Roman officer. He is a devout and God-fearing man, well respected by all the Jews. A holy angel instructed him to summon you to his house so that he can hear your message."²³ So Peter invited the men to stay for the night. The next day he went with them, accompanied by some of the brothers from Joppa.²⁴ They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.²⁵ As Peter entered his home, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped him.²⁶ But Peter pulled him up and said, "Stand up! I'm a human being just like you!"²⁷ So they talked together and went inside, where many others were assembled.²⁸ Peter told them, "You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean.

Who do we see as the _____?

Gal 3:26-28 (NLT) ²⁶ For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on the character of Christ, like putting on new clothes.²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

NLT Ephesians 2:14 For Christ himself has made peace between us Jews and you Gentiles by making us all one people. He has broken down the wall of hostility that used to separate us.

Acts 10:34-36 (NLT) ³⁴ Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism.³⁵ In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right.³⁶ This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

The _____ the diversity there is in God's family, the better positioned we are to reach a _____ diversity of people!!

Acts 10:44-45 (NLT) ⁴⁴ Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message.⁴⁵ The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too.

Being _____ might be cool with us, but it may _____ with everyone else.

Acts 11:1-3 (NLT) ¹ Soon the news reached the apostles and other believers in Judea that the Gentiles had received the word of God.² But when Peter arrived back in Jerusalem, the Jewish believers criticized him.³ "You entered the home of Gentiles and even ate with them!" they said.

God's way is to be, " _____ " " _____ " " _____ "
" _____ - _____ "

John 17:20-21 (NLT) ²⁰ "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.²¹ I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.