

The Mission Heart of God

Acts 10:1-48

What is your Rescue Story? (Testimony) [Life before/how met Jesus/life since salv.]
God is a relational, missional, and Rescuing God. God's heart is to save (rescue) sinners

God is the God of salvation. Hebrews 12:2 "God is the Author (originator) and Perfecter of our faith" – God **initiates** our salvation; He is working behind the scenes to show us that we are sinners in need of a Savior. He enlightens our dark minds; His Spirit shows us that we are lost and in need of a Savior; His Spirit regenerates our hearts; He gives us faith to believe/trust

-God perfects our salvation. God finishes what He begins. Phil 1:6 "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ." John 10:28-29 "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ [a]My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand." Eternal Assurance; Eternal Security = Union w/ Christ

God is at work (invisibly; supernaturally) to change hearts and redeem souls – To Rescue us

****Last week, Acts 8, God divinely orchestrated Philip to meet with Ethiopian Eunuch**

-Notice the heart of God for saving sinners, & what God does to bring divine appmts . . .

READ Acts 10 SCENE: four actors, 2 cities, two big miracles, many lives changed....

Now *there was* a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, ² a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and made many charitable contributions to the *Jewish* people and prayed to God continually. ³ About the ninth hour of the day [3pm] he clearly saw **in a vision** an angel of God who had *just* come in and said to him, "Cornelius!" ⁴ And he looked at him intently and became terrified, and said, "What is it, lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and charitable gifts have ascended as a memorial offering before God." ⁵ Now dispatch *some* men to Joppa [33miles away] and send for a man *named* Simon, who is also called Peter;⁶ he is staying with a tanner *named* Simon, whose house is by the sea." ⁷ When the angel who **spoke* to him left, he summoned two of his [c]servants and a devout soldier from his personal attendants, ⁸ and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa. ⁹ On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the [d]housetop about the sixth hour to pray [noon]. ¹⁰ But he became hungry and wanted to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance [lit. ecstatic vision] ¹¹ and he **saw* the sky opened up, and an [e]object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, ¹² and on it were all *kinds of* four-footed animals and [g]crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the sky. ¹³ A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, [h]kill and eat!" ¹⁴ But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything [i]unholy and unclean." ¹⁵ Again a voice *came* to him a second time, "**What God has cleansed, no longer [j]consider unholy.**" ¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the [k]object was taken up into the sky.

¹⁷ Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in [l]mind as to what the vision which he had seen might [m]mean, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius had asked directions to Simon's house, and they appeared at the gate; ¹⁸ and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there. ¹⁹ While Peter was reflecting on the vision, **the Spirit said to him**, "Behold, [n]three men are looking for you. ²⁰ But get up, go downstairs and accompany them [o]without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself." ²¹ Peter

went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?"²² They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was *divinely* directed by a holy angel to send for you *to come* to his house and hear a message from you."²³ So he invited them in and gave them lodging.

Now on the next day he got ready and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him.²⁴ On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.²⁵ When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and ^[w]worshiped *him*.²⁶ But Peter helped him up, saying, "Stand up; I, too, am just a man."²⁷ As he talked with him, he entered and *found many people assembled.²⁸ And he said to them, "You yourselves know that it is forbidden for a Jewish man to associate with or visit a ^[f]foreigner; and yet God has shown me that I am not to call any person ^[s]unholy or unclean.

Vs. 33: Cornelius=So I sent *men* to you immediately, and you have ^[w]been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear everything that you have been commanded by the Lord."

³⁴ Opening his mouth, Peter said: "**I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,** ³⁵ **but in every nation the one who ^[w]fears Him and ^[w]does what is right is acceptable to Him.** ³⁶ The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching ^[x]peace through Jesus Christ (**He is Lord of all**)— **Peter shares the gospel**

Vs. 44: While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.⁴⁵ All the Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out on the Gentiles.⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter responded,⁴⁷ "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *did*, can he?"⁴⁸ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days." **HUGE!!! 4 actors: (God/Spirit, Angel, Cornelius & Peter)**

In Scripture as a record of Redemptive History...

-God shows us progressive revelation. Dispensation of Law (OT); dispensation of Grace (NT)
=Under the LAW, God showed Israel how to live righteously/Under Grace=He did it for them

-God called, blessed, provided for His chosen people – Jews=(*blessed to be a blessing*) Is. 42:6
"I will appoint you as a Covenant to the people (gentiles), as a light to the nations" (gentiles)
Is. 49:6 "I will also make you a light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." God chose and blessed the Israelites. BUT, God called them to be a **witness!!**

-God began a new dispensation (GRACE) after the CROSS, that salvation, spiritual inheritance, & blessing was for Jew **& Gentile** (Eph. 3) =*Jew no longer favored. CHRIST was favored!*=Union

-What was previously bound up in the LAW, is now **fulfilled IN Christ** – through Grace.

-Peter was the first to learn this lesson in this text. Paul perfected it in Rom./Gal./Eph.

-NOTICE how God was at work in the Roman Centurion's life.

Vs. 2: a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and made many charitable contributions to the *Jewish* people and **prayed to God continually**. **Vs. 22** They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews."

-Cornelius was a "good" guy (took care of family, devout, gave alms, prayed)=but **STILL LOST**

-Out of God's kindness, God orchestrated a divine moment for Cornelius & drew Peter to him

- God sent an Angel to Cornelius in a **vision**=Divine Revelation, Special Revelation to lost soul
- God sent a vision to Peter, showing him a new dispensation. OT Law has been fulfilled/Christ
- In the new dispensation of Grace, nothing (**Ceremonial** within Lev. law) is unclean any longer. (BUT... **God's Moral law & civil law still stood**). = Jews can associate w/Gentiles
- Everyone/anyone is NOW reconciled to God ONLY through a saving faith rel. w/ Jesus Christ!

2 Big Miracles: 1) Change in dispensation for Jewish people toward Gentiles/Law vs. Grace
 2)God brought Peter to share gospel with Cornelius/family/friends =all get saved! **Life change!**

-Look what God sent Jesus to do for YOU. Jesus came to give His holy and sinless life as THE sacrifice, once for all, **for you** – that if you would embrace this divine moment to run to Him.

APPLICATION:

- Who do you sense God is drawing you toward, that God would use you to give the hope of Christ away – to share the message of the gospel? Are you available, ready for a divine appointment?
- Who are you still acting like is “untouchable” or “unclean” – who you have prejudice against?
- What in your life do you need the Lord to change your mind on? Stuck in the past? Stuck in a past hurt/wound? Stuck in a wrong attitude or perspective? God wants to change it – and show you His heart, His calling, and your obedience = blessing!