

Acts 10:23-11:18 Generous Grace

Fathers day: Happy fathers day – Dads {Better Story

Fathers are under attack today, especially in the Media.

A) Old days – Esteemed Dads like – Robert Young in Father knows Best or Hugh Beamont – Leave it to...

B) Andy Griffith – even Tom Bosley – Happy days

1) Men who were seen as being hard working – wise – carrying and Strong.

C) Today it is a different story: We have Dads who are light weights goofy, irresponsible –

1) Selfish

D) Homer Simpson, Ray Barone, Jim Belushi –

Even in the Bible we see Fathers who were failures

A) Abraham – Lied – Child out of Wedlock – family problems

B) David was Passive with his kids – failed to discipline.

C) Eli Priest – Kids were horrible – he let them run rampant

D) Jacob – Showed favoritism –

1) On and on of poor examples

So when the Bible portrays a Father in a good light – we who are Dads need to take notice.

A) Example of that in Acts 10 – A Dad named Cornelius

B) We met Cornelius in our last study – He was a Roman Centurion –

over 100 men.

B)V.2 of Chapter 10 described him this way – He was “a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.”

C)Three quick things I want us who are men to take note of here about Cornelius as a Father.

#1 He was Devout man who feared God!

A)At first glance – we might think this simply means that he was dedicated

B)The word Devout used here actually refers to an inner attitude of having a holy awe of God.

1)Which becomes the motivation for all devoted activity.

C)The Church needs & our families need men today –who have a holy awe of God!

1)Men who are awestruck

Cc)As a Roman – Cornelius would have been exposed to the Roman Panthiestic ways – many gods

D)But somewhere along the road – he realized that those gods have nothing really to offer him

E)It is a great day when a man comes to realize that the gods of this world

1)Money, sex, power – have nothing to offer him nothing that is going to bring lasting satisfaction.

Cornelius was stationed in Palestine – God began to do something in his heart –

**A) Became intrigued with the God of Judiasm
Monotheistic - pursuer of One God – Jehovah.**

B) The more he learned of Jehovah the God of Israel the more in awe he was!

1) Fear God = To Revere Him

C) It was a potential career ending move for a Roman to become a follower of Judaism.

D) The Fear of man is a snare – The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.

E) Lack of the fear of God is what gets a lot of men in trouble.

1) Lying – cheating at work – Porn – No fear of God!

#2 Cornelius was a Generous man!

A) He gave alms generously to the people.

B) Generosity is a wonderful trait to be found in a man!

1) It is a sign – that he understands – his wealth and possessions are things to be used by him – rather than things that control him.

C) Generosity in a Christian man – is a sign of someone who has a loose grip on the things of this world.

D) My Dad great example to me in this!

1) Very generous – always helping – even though he has never had very

much.

E) Cornelius was a Generous man!

#3 Cornelius was a man of Prayer!

A) He had set his heart toward seeking God!

B) Men who are men of Prayer – held in high esteem by their families.

1) Wife – knows her husband is praying through decisions – easy to submit to such a man – Devos

C) Result of these things in Cornelius life:

D) We are told in v.2 that his whole household forsook the gods of Rome to seek after Jehovah the true and living God!

1) At this time – They were not believers in Jesus yet – but they all would become believers in Jesus.

Statistics are overwhelming stating the impact that a Father who follows Christ has on his family.

A) The chances of the rest of his family following Christ – more than doubles over mom

B) Cornelius is a good example of that Fact.

C) Fathers – men – husbands – may Cornelius be a great example to all of us today!

But Acts Ch.10 is not just a story about a man seeking after God!

A) The end result of this Story is the HS being poured out.

B) People being saved! –

1) A whole new move of the Spirit happening in the Church among the

Gentiles

C) Those are the marks of Revival!

1) God pouring out his spirit

2) People being saved.

3) The Spirit of God – opening up new doors for the Church to move into.

D) The Church in America desperately needs a Revival.

1) Only hope for America – our community – is a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit.

E) This Chapter has a lot to say about that

“Revival is a community saturated with God.”

Duncan Campbell

“Revival is a time when heaven comes closer to earth”

Francois Carr

What does Acts 10 teach us about receiving a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit?

#1 It was initiated in Prayer!

A) We see in v.3 Cornelius praying -

B) V.9 Peter 35 miles away in Joppa goes up on the House top to pray –

C) Every revival that has ever happened in the history of the Church – began with a move of prayer

1) People committed to pray!

D) Revival in your heart – Begins with prayer

1) Time set aside to pray

E) Here - Begins with the leadership!

We saw last time – God moved as these men prayed

A) Sent an Angel to Cornelius – to send for Peter

B) Gave Peter a vision – new thing “Don’t call common what I have cleansed – go with these men.”

C) Cornelius – sends men to Joppa – Peter goes.

RD V.17-23

#2 it required an openness to the Holy Spirit!

A) By going with them Peter was going against 1500 yrs of religious tradition. Jews don’t eat with Gentiles

B) Dogs – Unclean - Fuel for the fires of Hell –

C) Tradition: We have always done it this way – is a sure way to quench the HS!

D) Not talking weirdness – Has to be in line with Scripture.

1) But it is easy for us to get set in our ways.

E) Personally Devos – Switch it up!

#3 There was an attitude of Expectation! Rd v.24-33

A) Cornelius was expectant. – He was waiting expectant for Peter to come with a word.

Acts 10:33

“So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.”

B) I wonder how our services would change if we showed up here really believing we are meeting with God –

C) This is His word – Powerful – change lives

1) God is going to speak to us today!

I believe the very fact that God ends up pouring his spirit out on Cornelius and all his house and friends is directly related to his expectant attitude.

A) God wants us to approach him expectantly

B) Why Jesus commends faith & rebukes lack of faith.

C) Why would you doubt? Really

1) Desperate seeking { Our Church

D) He would have passed them by.....

1) Could do no major work because of their unbelief

V.34 Peter begins to preach – Peter's sermon: Exalts the Centrality of Christ!

#4 The focus of the teaching was on Jesus!

A) Jesus is the focus – not the Holy Spirit – HS is result! Peter Preaches Christ

B) This gives us an indication – Cornelius was not yet a believer – Peter preaches Christ It is all about Jesus

RD V.34-44

Lyold Jones

C) Peter exalts Christ – And the result of his exalting Christ in the word – is the spirit comes.

D) Connection between – The Word and the Spirit.

Note 8 ways that Peter exalts Christ in this sermon!

#1 Peter exalts Jesus as the Bringer of Peace! V.36

A) Peter lifts up Jesus as the one through whom God makes peace with his rebellious creation.

B) There is a lack of peace in the heart of man – who is in sin – sin separates us from God.

1) Jesus came to be the peace maker –

C) Reconcile man to God!

1) THAT IS THE GOODNEWS – You can be reconciled to God thru Jesus!

#2 Peter exalts Jesus as the Lord of All V.36

A) That's who he is. He is Lord of all.

B) Not just Lord of the Jews, but Lord of the Gentiles like Cornelius and his family, and not just Lord of the Gentiles,

C) but Lord of all angels and all demons (as we'll see in a minute).

D) He is Lord of lords and King of kings (Revelation 17:14; 19:16).

1) He is universal Ruler. He is not a mere local prophet or a tribal deity or a Jewish teacher.

E) He is Lord of the universe and everything in it—Lord of all.

#3 Peter exalts Jesus as a Man Anointed with the Spirit and Power. V.38

A)It is tremendously important to say the awesome fact that Jesus—the Lord of all—was a man.

B)That's the point of Peter's identifying him as "Jesus of Nazareth.**" He had a hometown.**

C)He was known by friends and kinsmen there. He worked in the carpenter's shop.

1)The Lord of all had become a human like you and me (only without sin).

D)That is how He is our sympathetic high priest – he knows what it is like to walk in our shoes

And so he was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power!

A)Example: like all believers need to be anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power in order to have extraordinary effect in ministry.

B)The end of verse 38 says, "for God was with him."

The point is not that he was not God.

1)The point was that as a man he relied upon God.

C)The Lord of all humbled himself and became a servant and lived **his life dependant upon the anointing and the power of the Holy Spirit.**

#4 Peter exalts Jesus as a Man Stronger Than Sin and Satan. V.38b

A)Peter lifts up Jesus as a man who was stronger than sin and stronger than the devil.

B)The anointing and power that Jesus had from God was not given from far away.

1)When the anointing came, God came.

C) Jesus walked with God his Father. When Jesus acted, the Father acted.

1) There was perfect intimacy. God was with him.

And because God was with him, and the anointing and power of God were on him, Jesus did what was good.

A) **Jesus never did bad things.** He was tempted to do bad things, just like we are, but the Bible teaches that he always conquered the temptation (Hebrews 4:15).

B) He was stronger than sin, because he kept such **intimate, satisfying fellowship with God.**

C) The power of sin was broken by the presence of God's joy in Jesus' life.

D) And by this same power he conquered the devil: verse 38b, "**He went about doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.**"

E) Jesus is stronger than the devil. Jesus rescues people who are oppressed and harassed and tormented and tempted by the devil.

F) Peter lifts up this truth. He wants Cornelius and his family—and us—to know this and believe it and experience it

I want to pause and talk about that word oppressed for a minute. –

Oppressed

to exercise harsh control over one,

Websters 1828

1. To load or burden with unreasonable impositions; to treat with unjust severity, rigor or hardship; as, to oppress a nation with taxes or

contributions; to oppress one by compelling him to perform unreasonable service.

2. To overpower; to overburden;

Modern Dictionary:

to weigh down, to put down; subdue or suppress.

to press upon or against; crush. To cause to sink

Is that not what people are going thru today!

A)Crushed by life – sinking –

B)Finances – weighed down

C)Satan is the god of this world – he will use any means.

D)Traffic – weighed down – Crushed

E)Peer Pressure

F)Religious Pressure.

Jesus came to set us free from all of that especially the weight of sin! – Free the oppressed.

A)You today – let him set you free.

B)Surrender your life to him today – give him your heart

1)Give him your problems

#5 Peter exalts Jesus as a Man Who Was Killed in Spite of His Goodness V.39

A)Peter lifts up Jesus as a man who was killed in spite of his goodness.

B) All a part of God's plan to set man free – Jesus pay the price for sin

1) Become the Curse

C) But He didn't stay dead!

#6 Peter exalts Jesus as Alive from the Dead and Raised by God V.40-41

A) This is the heart of Christianity – Jesus Rez proves He was who He claimed to be – Lord – only way!

B) Bodily Rez – ate food – touched Him – flesh and blood

#7 Peter exalts Jesus as the Final Judge of All People V.42

A) All of us will stand before Jesus.

B) Living – those who know him – reward

C) Dead – those who don't – to be Judged –

1) What did you do with Jesus

D) He will say: I died for your sins – I paid the price – all you had to do was receive it –

1) You didn't – Depart

#8 Peter exalts Jesus as the Source of God's Forgiveness for Our Sins .43

A) Before you meet Jesus as Judge, you may meet him this very morning as the forgiver of sins—the Peacemaker of God.

#1 It was initiated in Prayer!

#2 An openness to the Spirit

#3 An Expectant attitude.

#4 The focus of the teaching was on Jesus

RESULT RD V.44-48

Now the Bible says that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word – they heard – faith happened - They believed – Salvation & Empowering

A)Indwelt and Empowered all at once

B)Saved HS indwells –

1)Baptism of HS – Immersed

C)All at once.

Baptized – to identify!

V.45 Astonished:

to throw out of position, displace

to amaze, to astonish, throw into wonderment

Their whole position and thinking was displaced

Gentiles - recipients of Generous Grace

Ch.11 – Peter retells the story – V.1-18

RD V. 15-18

No Partiality

Astonished – Dave – drugs trash

Jamie

Abortions

Communion:

Today – not a believer – observe

Another way – Open heart

Dear Lord – Jesus you are Lord of all

Sinner – separated

Your death – power – heal

Forgive

Heart