

## We All Need Jesus

Acts 10:1-6

2/ 20/ 05

### Intro

There is a common belief in this world that if you live a basically moral life and do some benevolent things, then you will be acceptable in God's sight. But the scriptures we are studying today help us to see that no man is acceptable in God's sight without Jesus.

Other people are convinced that they are so dirty that God could never care or be concerned with them.

### **Both of these perspectives are not from God.**

In chapter 10 of Acts, we meet a man named Cornelius who God brings to faith in the Lord Jesus. But the story is filled with important lessons for all of us.

### **These are insights in understanding that we all need Jesus.**

#### **I. There is None Righteous Before God**

##### A. No matter how good; it's not enough

- Cornelius was a centurion that was well spoken of throughout Israel and was considered to be a righteous and God fearing man.
- If anyone would be considered qualified to enter into heaven on his own merits it would be Cornelius.

**Vs 2 – He was a devout man, who feared God (with his entire household), was generous to the poor, and**

**prayed to God continually – all while he was a Roman centurion!**

- But it wasn't enough. He needed Jesus.

**Illus – Someone came up to Bob Hope on the golf course one day thinking that he would share the good news of Christ with him. He responded, “When you've given as much as I have to charity, then I'll listen to you.”**

**Romans 3:10, “There is none righteous, not even one;”**

**Isaiah 64:6, “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness is as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”**

##### B. But God loves a right heart

- Many who think they are righteous are offensive to God...

**Luke 18:9-14, And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.'”**

- But Cornelius was different. Not only did he fear God and pray continually, but he cared for others and gave alms generously.

**Vs 4 – “Your prayers and alms have come up as a memorial before the Lord.”**

**Psalm 51:16-17, “For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”**

## **II. But Forgiveness is Open to All**

### **A. Even to the worst of sinners**

- The focus of Acts 10 then changes to Peter in Joppa. He receives a vision which is repeated three times.

**Verse 12 --** A sheet is lowered which contains all kinds of animals and he told to kill and eat.

**“Not so, Lord,” is his response. But this is a message to no call unclean what God calls clean.**

- This is a message that they need to accept the Gentiles into the faith – they are “clean.”
- This is true, no matter how sinful someone may be.

**Romans 5:20-21, “but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”**

**I Timothy 1:15-17, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”**

**Illus – *He was persecuting the church, he was persecuting Jesus Himself.***

### **B. Don’t call unclean what God calls clean**

- We often have a problem accepting God’s complete forgiveness and many carry a great burden from their sins.

**Acts 10:15, Again a voice came to him a second time, “What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.”**

**Matthew 9:11-13, When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, “Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?” But when Jesus heard this, He said, “It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice,’ for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

**Illus – There is a powerful hymn of the faith that says it all.**

**There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel’s veins and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains...**

C. Don't call unclean what God calls clean

- This not only refers to our accepting God's complete forgiveness, but also extending forgiveness to those whom called has cleansed.

**Illus – It's very easy to pick up stones like the crowd surrounding the woman caught in adultery.**

**Illus – the pastor who was in the news recently was standing before the church after that terrible week; and over 200 of them came in carrying stones in their hands...**

**Matthew 18:21-22, Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."**

**III. He is the Only One We Need**

A. He is the One; there is no other

**Verse 42 – He is the One who has been appointed by God...**

**Illus – Many people believe there are many roads that all lead to the same destination - heaven. There are many roads, but they do not all lead to the same place.**

**Acts 4:12, "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."**

- If help does not come to the Gentiles through Jesus, then no help will come at all.

B. There is nothing lacking in Him

- Why would we want another?
- In Him is everything we need.

**Romans 8:32-34, "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us."**

C. He who is forgiven much loves much

- There is a right response to the love that we have received from the Lord – to love Him with all our hearts.
- That is the one thing that God desires more than any other.

**Luke 7:47, "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."**

- When Peter spoke about the *forgiveness of sins*, the Holy Spirit fell upon them as it did the disciples...
- ... and they were heard exalting God.

## Conclusion

**May we walk in a manner worthy of the gift we have received. If we would only be convinced in our hearts that we are completely cleansed and completely loved, we would respond with all of our hearts.**