

untouchables who should be avoided? Does Peter's lesson from God ("God has shown me ..." 10:28) apply in these situations? Why or why not?

Sermon Notes

"Overcoming Prejudice"

Acts 9:32 – 10:35

January 13, 2019

4. Read Acts 10:30-35.

- a. When Peter observed Cornelius' manner and heard his account of the angel's message, what did Peter realize (10:34-35)?

- b. In what sense does God "not show favoritism" (10:34)? From this story, what kinds of things don't influence God to love a person?

- c. Why is it important for you that God doesn't show favoritism?

- d. Do you ever act as though he does favor certain ethnic, economic, social, or political groups? What can you do to correct this when you spot it in yourself?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Ben and Jen Wood – ZOE International, Thailand

ZOE provides children who've been victimized by human trafficking true healing and restoration in the name of Jesus. Pray that God would help ZOE find and rescue children, and that the Gospel will continue to reach the lost in Thailand.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 01-13-19

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., *New Testament Lesson Maker*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 200-201; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., *Acts: Life Change Series*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 105-112.

Getting Started:

1. If you lived overseas, what about your life-style would you try to maintain, and how would you try to fit in with the nationals?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read Acts 10:1-8. We are introduced to a new character, Cornelius.
 - a. Summarize what we learn about Cornelius from this passage. (Who was he, where did he live, where was he from, how did he relate to God and help those in need?)

God-fearing (10:2). A *proselyte* was someone who fully converted from paganism to Judaism; if he was a man, he underwent circumcision and kept the whole Jewish law. A *God-fearer* was a Gentile who was not circumcised and perhaps continued to eat Gentile food, but who attended and supported the synagogue, kept the moral laws, and prayed to the God of Israel. Acts 10:2 emphasizes Cornelius' sincere devotion.

(Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., *Acts: Life Change Series*, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 106).

- b. What neighbors and friends remind you of Cornelius?

- c. Why is it that many kind, "God-fearing" people do not have a personal relationship with Christ?

- d. What did Cornelius experience one afternoon (10:3-8)? How does he respond?

3. Consider how God orchestrates a meeting between Peter and Cornelius. Read Acts 10:9-29.

- a. What did Peter experience while food was being prepared for him (10:10-16)? What did Peter see? What was he instructed to do? Why did he protest? How were his objections silenced? Why do you think this incident repeated three times?

- b. Peter is perplexed, reflecting on the meaning of the vision (10:17, 19). Notice that it has as much to do with people as it does with food. How does the Spirit immediately apply the lesson of Peter's trance vision (10:17-21)?

- c. After the messengers from Cornelius came and reported the angelic appearance, what further application of the vision was apparent to Peter (10:23-29)?

- d. In what ways are we prone to regard some segments of society as "unholy or unclean" (10:28) –