

The Ground is Level at the Cross – Acts 10

What do you think of when you hear the word prejudice?

Does this exist in the church today? If so, it was never intended to!

These past 3 chapters of Acts were intended to show that there is absolutely no partiality, no favoritism, no prejudice in God!

- Acts 8:1-25 – Philip is called to proclaim Christ to the Samaritans!
- Acts 8:26-40 – Philip shares the gospel & baptizes an Ethiopian Eunuch!
- Acts 9:1-31 – Saul, the persecutor of Christ, is converted & commissioned!
- Acts 9:43 – Peter stays at the house of Simon, a tanner!
- Acts 10 – Peter invites in Gentile guests & he goes & stays w/Cornelius!
- Acts 10 – God gives Peter a vision & Cornelius & family receive the gospel!

It is plain to see that prejudice & partiality have no place in the Church!

But why the need to have this so strongly emphasized here in Acts?

Because God's people had gotten off track! The Jews had forgotten the reason for God's favor/blessing upon them in the first place!

God chose Abram! He made a promise to bless him & his descendants! He did so, in order that they would be a blessing to all the nations of the world!

God showed favor, without showing favoritism!

God chose a particular people, without showing partiality!

Peter began to fully realize this here in Acts 10 - ***"Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him & does what is right is acceptable to him."*** - Vs. 34-35

There is no distinction between clean and unclean at the foot of the cross!
There is no separation between the Jew & the Gentile in Christ!

There is no place, no people, to which the gospel ought not to be preached!

The only distinguishing mark of God's Kingdom is - acceptance of the gospel!

- The Samaritans still had to accept Philip's proclamation of Christ!
- The Ethiopian eunuch, though he came to Jerusalem to worship God, still needed to accept that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah/Christ of the O.T.
- Saul, though very religious, still needed to proclaim Jesus the "Son of God"

- Cornelius, though he was a God-fearer, & he gave generously & he prayed continually, he still needed to hear the gospel of Jesus & respond to it!

There is no partiality in God, but there is still only one way to salvation!

Acts 10 simply lays out this gospel! It is exclusive, but also very inclusive!

All are accepted of God who accept the truth of Jesus Christ, that *"Living He loved us, dying He saved us, buried He carried our sins far away, rising He justified, freely forever. One day He's coming, oh glorious day!"*

This is what ***"preaching the good news of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)"***, truly means. – Vs. 36

And this is what all of us are called to as the Church -to share the good news of Jesus Christ (the Apostles Creed) w/everyone! ***It's what the world needs to hear!***

Here is an example of this being lived out – An interview with Joey Morgan

- Why would you, a college student, spend your summer doing this?
- Why was sharing the gospel the goal of every interaction/conversation?
- Did prejudice, showing partiality or favoritism ever get in the way?
- What impact has this experience had on your life & faith?
- What would be the one thing you would challenge all of us with?

Thanks for living out **1 Timothy 4:12** – ***"You set for believers an example..."***

"And he (Jesus) commanded us to preach to the people & to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." – Vs. 42-43

This gospel is truly good news, and it is for all people! Let us therefore throw off anything that would hinder us from declaring it to the nations!

Take a moment & right down a place/person/people that you need to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with (Don't let any prejudice/partiality/favoritism get in your way)

The ground is level at the foot of the cross—the invitation to come is open to all!

8-26-18 The Ground is Level at the Cross – Acts 10

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