A Cataclysmic Change

Ken Chapman · Acts 10:1–11:18

INTRODUCTION

- I want to talk to you this morning about a change that took place in the Christian world. And it's a drastic change.
- It wasn't about food, because it really never was about food. It was all about the distinction between Jews and Gentile.
- A cataclysmic change in the church has taken place. It's not a cataclysmic change in God's plan. This has been a part of God's plan from the beginning.

1 A Good Person Can Be Lost

Acts 10:2

- First of all, is that a good person can be lost.
- A devout man who feared God with all his household and gave his alms generously to the people and prayed to God always.
- But Peter was sent because this man was a lost sinner.
- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- This concept that, well, all I need to do is to be good is not good enough. We need the forgiveness that only the blood of Christ can offer.

2 We Learn How to Listen

Acts 10:24–25; Acts 10:33

- He listened with an appreciation for the truth.
- Your acceptance of the gospel, your acceptance of the message is going to be at least 90% affected by whether or not you have an appreciation for it.
- Now, therefore, we're all present before God to hear all things commanded you by God.
- We're not here to hear your words, Peter. We're here to hear God. Reverence for the Word of God.
- He showed a strong desire to obey.
- Our attitude has everything to do with our reception of the Word of God.

3 Prejudice in Any Form Is Just Ungodly

Acts 10:34–35

- In truth, I perceive that God shows no partiality, but in every nation, whoever fears him and works righteousness is accepted by him.
- It wasn't about beef versus pork. It wasn't about fish versus shrimp.
- God doesn't judge by the color of skin. God doesn't choose based upon the nationality on someone's passport or birth certificate.

- God just loves. And he wants you to be his.
- It was their actions that God made a distinction.
- God's opposition to mixed marriages wasn't a racial or national difference. It was a spiritual and moral difference that God rejected.

4 I Must Be Prepared to Change

Acts 11:18

- The last lesson, and maybe the hardest lesson to learn from the story of Cornelius is that I must be prepared to change. And change isn't easy.
- I'm talking about the change that Peter had to undergo. He had to change.
- God gets to set the agenda. And we have to change. It wasn't an easy change, but it was a change they had to make.
- What stubborn change is there in my life?
- That I need to have my aha moment and go, oh, that's the way God wants it. And God gets to say, not me.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you prepared to change? Are you willing to submit your will fully and completely to the will of God and change in whatever way he asks or demands of you to make in your life?**

MY NOTES