A Good Man Who Was Lost

Robert Harkrider · Acts 10:1–48 · Series: **Turning to God**

INTRODUCTION

- He understood that just being a good moral person alone or being religious, being of clear conscience, was not enough. He needed to believe in Jesus Christ.
- In our lesson today, I want to talk about a good man who was lost.

1 A Good Man Who Was Lost

Acts 10:1–6; Acts 10:22; Acts 11:14

- As the scripture here, in fact, says of him in verse 2, he was a devout man. He was one that feared God with all his house.
- Even though he's first presented to us as a good man who was devout, feared God, who gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always, he was lost in that condition.
- Send to Joppa to fetch Simon, Peter, who shall tell thee words whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.
- A lot of people have been deceived by some preachers who think that we're pretty good people ourselves, surely somehow, we're all going to go to heaven. But Cornelius is the illustration that's just not true.

2 The Part of Prayer in His Conversion

John 9:31; Proverbs 28:9; 1 Peter 3:12

- Surely here was a man who was praying. He knew, no doubt, that he was not a perfect man, but he was not saved. He had to hear words whereby he shall be saved.
- Well, on the one hand, there are some preachers who say, Oh, just pray the sinner's prayer and you'll be saved. There are those on the other hand who say, Oh, don't pray at all.
- The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous. His ears are open to their prayers, but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.
- I would encourage even a sinner to pray if that's his attitude. That upon hearing it, upon learning it, I'll do something about it.

3 An Angel Appeared in a Vision to Cornelius

Acts 10:7–8

- First of all, an angel appeared in a vision to Cornelius.
- What was the purpose for the angel appearing to Cornelius? Well, it wasn't to save him.
- Each of them was to go and hear words whereby they would be saved.

4 Peter's Vision: Call Not Any Man Common

Acts 10:9–20; Acts 10:30–33; Acts 10:34–43

- Arise and go with them, doubting nothing. For I have sent them.
- When you read from Acts chapter 2 all the way to Acts chapter 10, not a single Gentile has obeyed the gospel.
- Now therefore are we all here present before God to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. What an attitude.
- This is the kind of attitude that God saw in Cornelius and why his prayer is heard or went up as a memorial.
- Of a truth, I perceive that God is no respecter of persons. But in every nation, he that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted with him.

5 Holy Spirit Baptism on the First Gentile Convert

Acts 10:44–46; Acts 11:15–18; Acts 15:7–9

- But we need to ask, why was it done this way? The answer is because he was the first Gentile convert.
- It didn't save him, but it sent a message that Gentiles could be saved by faith, just like Jews.
- I say to you that Holy Spirit baptism was an uncommon experience.
- What the baptism of the Holy Spirit did was as God's witness that Jew and Gentile are saved alike by faith.

6 Commanded to Be Baptized

Acts 10:47–48; Acts 8:35–38; 1 Peter 3:20–21

- He was a good man who prayed. He was a good man who had a vision. The fact is he was still a lost man.
- Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we.
- They were commanded. If you want to do God's will, you understand it's a command of the Lord.
- The like figure where unto even baptism does also now save us. Not the putting away the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **I ask you, have you obeyed the gospel? You know, when you read the scriptures, it's not that hard to understand. It simply takes an open mind and an open heart. An attitude that wants to obey the Lord.**

MY NOTES