They Are Precious In His Sight

Ken Chapman · Acts 10:11–35

INTRODUCTION

- And the voice from heaven said to Peter, Arise, Peter, kill and eat.
- In other words, the food was a reminder of the racial or ethnic distinction that God was making with this special nation.
- Just as God has used clean and unclean animals to illustrate the distinction, he now erases that distinction by showing Peter that in every nation, whoever should call upon him would be saved.

1 Our God Shows No Partiality

Acts 10:34–35; Romans 1; Acts 2

- Peter understood here in Acts chapter 10, verses 34 and 35, that our God shows no partiality.
- But that distinction in Christ Jesus, even that distinction has been eradicated.
- It wasn't talking about food, it wasn't talking about animals, he was talking about people.
- Peter was quoting from Joel, said, Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
- That God is no respecter of persons. The scripture is clear upon that matter.

2 Jesus Demonstrates God's Attitude Toward the Races

John 4:7–9

- The hero of that story was a hated Samaritan. But not to Jesus.
- How is it that you, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman. For the Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.
- It's not the culturally different person across the globe that's the hardest to love. It's our nearby neighbor whose skin color, whose language, whose culture and rituals are different than mine.
- But Jesus, both as the word of God communicating himself to man, demonstrates God's attitude toward the races.

3 Not So in the Kingdom of God

Ephesians 2:14–16

- Earthly kingdoms make a racial and ethnic distinction, distinctions of superiority and of priority, but not so in the kingdom of God.
- The gospel not only removes the barrier between God and man, but also the barrier between the races.
- For he himself is our peace, who made both one. And has broken down the middle wall of separation.
- There's no Jew or Gentile. There's no slave or free, there's no male or female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.
- There is no such thing as a black church, a white church, a Hispanic church. There is one body.

4 Commandment Number Two: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

James 2:8–9; Galatians 2:11–14

- Number two of all the commandments God has given us, Jesus said, is this love your neighbor as yourself.
- We don't get to decide who our neighbor is. God and the circumstances of life do.
- The fulfillment of this command absolutely excludes any kind of partiality or prejudice.
- If you really fulfill the royal law, according to the scripture, you shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well.
- And so not only is racism wrong, it's a denial and a contradiction of the very heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

5 It Also Violates Commandment Number One

1 John 4:20

- It also violates the very principle of what Jesus said was commandment number one.
- If someone says, I love God and hates his brother, he's a liar. For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?
- God is so connected to his children that our actions and our attitudes toward those children directly affect our actions, our attitude and our relationship to their Father.
- And those children, every one of them, were made in the image of God.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **In every way and every day, continue to break down that wall of separation that exists between us. That wall has been broken down. Let's not build it again.**

MY NOTES