

Series: Radical Renewal

Sermon: The Unexpected and Uncomfortable Forgiveness of God

Scripture: Acts 10:34-48 (ESV)

Teacher: Jeff Norris

Date: April 18, 2021

The story of Acts 10 ...

Verses 1-8: Cornelius's Vision

Verses 9-16: Peter's Vision

Verses 17-23: Peter meets Cornelius's Men

Verses 24-33: Peter goes to Caesarea and meets Cornelius

Acts 10:34-48 (ESV)

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality,

³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

³⁶ As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),

³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed:

³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,

⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,

⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.

⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word.

⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared,

⁴⁷ "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"

⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

"There's a wideness in God's mercy,

Like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in his justice,

Which is more than liberty.

For the love of God is broader

Than the measure of man's mind;

And the heart of the Eternal

Is most wonderfully kind."

-Frederick W. Faber (noted 19th century English hymn writer and theologian)

"Luke has now recounted the conversions of Saul and Cornelius. The differences between these two men were considerable. In race Saul was a Jew, Cornelius a Gentile; in culture Saul was a scholar, Cornelius a soldier; in religion Saul was a bigot, Cornelius a seeker. Yet both were converted by the gracious initiative of God; both received forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Spirit; and both were baptized and welcomed into the Christian family on equal terms. This fact is a signal testimony to the power and impartiality of the gospel of Christ, which is still 'the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.'"

-John Stott