

Acts 10b verses 36-48

Peter's message:

Just to add a bit to last week's teaching, the idea that all foods would one day be clean when the Messiah came is also mentioned in the Midrash (commentary on the Hebrew Scriptures in the 1st and 2nd centuries).

The separation from Gentiles and the extreme view of contamination came from the intertestamental period. The Jews saw the judgment of God had fallen on them because of their acceptance of idolatry. Their response in the return was to separate themselves from all things Gentile. Remember how Ezra condemned the mixed marriages and the infiltration of Gentiles or those of mixed blood into the Temple grounds. That became an increasingly extreme view as time passed. By the time Jesus came, they had completely forgotten that they were to be welcoming of Gentiles, leading them to the way of the one true God. They accepted converts, but had a complete disgust for any that did not convert. Peter's acceptance of Gentiles into Simon's home and going into the Centurion's home would be challenged by the church leaders in the next chapter.

The giant statue I mentioned last week in the harbor of Caesarea was that of Caesar and was compared to the Olympian statue of Zeus. You can see a foot of one of the giant statues today in front of the ruins of Caesarea. Most of the amphitheater has been restored as well as a good portion of the Hippodrome.

By the last two verses we must not understand that good works save us. If that was the case Peter could have stopped there. No, the good works were the outworking of a repentant heart. Now that repentant heart will find the way through the message God sent via Peter.

35 – 36 Peter began to share the teaching of the apostles (kerygma). It is summary of the Gospels. The Gospel must have been so widely known that Peter could assume they had heard about Jesus and the claim of Him being Messiah and offering peace (shalom- much more than freedom from condemnation) with God. The gospel was different from Judaism in that it offered peace with God, not through obedience to the Law, but through Jesus' sacrifice. Isaiah 57:19; Acts 2:39

37 –38 Peter reminds them of the life of Jesus, that it was a fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1-2 "after the baptism" When Jesus began to minister after the anointing came upon Him. His exorcisms freed those captive to the devil. He also freed people with the Truth. John 8:32

39 –41 They killed Him, but God raised Him! Peter is saying he saw it with his own eyes. The apostles emphasized the fact that they saw all these things. It

was not a bodiless spirit that they saw but a resurrected physical being that ate and drank. This would be important toward the end of the first century when different theories sprang up to distort the message. Why is it important for us today to see that Christ rose from death? 1Corinthians 15:17-18 Why didn't Jesus continue to minister to the multitudes after He rose? Acts 1:8

42 God commanded them to tell everyone that Jesus is the judge. Why is that important? Daniel 7:14

43 He is the one all the prophets spoke of. Jesus taught them that message. Luke 24:44 The salvation message: Believe in Jesus and receive salvation.

44 That is as far as Peter got, when suddenly the Gentile Pentecost took place. They were primed and ready to receive the message. When they did, they were filled with the Holy Spirit as was evidenced by speaking in tongues. This showed Peter that even though they were not Jewish, nor were they circumcised, nor had they kept all the Law, yet God had sanctified them through their belief in Jesus. They were made pure through their belief so that the Holy Spirit could come upon them. Peter did not lay hands on them as he did in Samaria. They simply received the message.

45-46 This is breaking all the boundaries they had held sacred for so long. Since they had manifested the evidence of the Spirit's presence by speaking in tongues, they couldn't deny these Gentiles were filled. Now they have to rethink everything.

47-48 Believe, receive, and confess. What Jesus did for the Jews, He did for all mankind. It had nothing to do with keeping the Law or being of the stock of Abraham. Anyone merely needed to earnestly receive the good news. This was a huge shift in the believers' understanding. Peter stayed a few days to help them get grounded in the faith. Stayed in the home of these Gentiles! Now they will have to explain to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem what God had done.