

Title: A Thriving Outreach : God, Gentiles, and Going  
 Theme: A look at the outreach of the church to Gentiles.  
 Text: Acts 10:30 - 35, 39 - 48a  
 Response: Communion  
 Benediction: Eh 3:20-21

I. Intro

A.Example:

As a new father it is very easy for me to find a way to let you clearly let you know that (2) I am a father, and (2) I am proud of my boy.

It is not so simple for me to tell you about my father.

B.Outreach & Evangelism:

1.Our Concept

- a)Door to door
- b)Tracts
- c)Kindness
- d)Friendship

2.Our fears

- a)Being rejected
- b)Being stumped
- c)Looking awkward

3.Our response

- a)Some evangelize
- b)Some ask: "Do I really need to anyway?"
- c)Some come up with reasons to not evangelize all
  - (1)It's not my gift or strength
  - (2)Someone else is already doing it
  - (3)I will be rejected anyway
  - (4)(If we're honest...)
    - (a)I don't like those people
    - (b)They don't deserve my kindness

4.What are the key themes and concepts in Acts?

Acts 1 - 28	Acts 8 - 11	Acts 10 - 11
Say, speak 234 all 171 God 167 Be, become 125 Lord, sir 107 Man, men 100 hear 89 Spirit 70	say, speak 41 Lord 31 God 29 Peter 27 all 27 Man, men 23 Be, become 21 Spirit 19	God 23 Peter 19 Say, speak 18 all 16 man 13 Be become 12 Lord 12 Spirit 10
Paul 128		

## II. Peter and Cornelius

### A. Story Time

#### 1. NOTE God's words to Peter (D) The background to the story

- A - God calls Cornelius
- B - Cornelius calls (servants and soldier)
- C - God calls Peter
- D - What God has cleansed do not defile
- C<sub>i</sub> - Servants call Peter
- B<sub>i</sub> - Spirit talks to Peter
- A<sub>i</sub> - Cornelius calls family and friends

### B. Understanding the implications

#### 1. Geographical movement

##### a) The movement of the gospel

- (1) Apostles start in Jerusalem 1:8
- (2) Persecution begins with Stephen 8:1
- (3) Believers are scattered through Judea and further 8:4
  - (a) Philip heads to Samaria 8:5 Peter and John follow
  - (b) Philip heads south towards Ethiopia 8:26. Then goes on to Azurites, towards Caesarea
  - (c) Saul heads north towards Damascus.
  - (d) Peter heads back West to Lydda, Sharon, towards Joppa.

##### b) BUT the Gospel still did not reach the Gentiles

#### 2. The Jewish mindset

##### a) Acts 1:8 What will this strategic plan entail?

- (1) Aladin example
  - (a) Geographical size
  - (b) "Us vs Them" mentality
- (2) Joining of Samaritans
- (3) Joining of Ethiopian convert
- (4) Joining of dispersed

##### b) BUT the Gospel still did not reach the Gentiles

#### 3. The movement by the Holy Spirit

##### a) God Prepares and Calls

###### (1) Philip

- (a) Angel tells him to sit by the road
- (b) Phil goes
- (c) Spirit tells him to go to the chariot
- (d) After Ethiopian eunuch converted Phil taken by Spirit to another town.
- (e) NOTE God only speaks to the evangelist, and gives vague instructions

###### (2) Ananias

- (a) God gives him the address and tells him who the mark is
- (b) Ananias god

(c)NOTE God spoke first to the mark, then to the evangelist and gave a very specific address

(3)ButThe Gospel still did not reach the Gentiles

### C.Get the Point!

1.It's all about God, His grace, and His work

- a)It was God's call to Cornelius' heart that drew him, not Peter's evangelism
- b)It was God's grace towards the the Gentiles that sent Peter, not any desire of His
- c)It was God's message that led to Cornelius' salvation
- d)It was God who Peter had the opportunity and desire to oppose.

2.God is not an "Us and Them"

- a)His intent from long before Cornelius, Peter, or even the birth of Christ was to bring the Gentiles into the kingdom.
- b)God's grace devines our relationship to the world around us.
- c)Christ broke down the dividing wall of hatred (Eh 2:13-14)

3.God's plan ALWAYS involves our obedience.

- a)Angel, Spirit, Philip
- b)Christ, Angel, Anaias
- c)Angel, Dream, Peter
- d)Paul's response:
  - (1)NOT: Lord hit them like you hit me
  - (2)INSTEAD "How will they hear" (Rom 10:13-15)

### III.Questions to Consider

A.Do you see that God has graciously called you to be His witness?

- 1.Does your light shine brightly atop a lamp, or is it hidden?
- 2.Do you see that every single one of us has been charged with the ministry of reconciliation? Or do you hope that someone else will do it for you?

B.Do you see that the whole of humanity is divided into "God's Family" and "Wrath's Family"?

1.God's Fmily

- a)Do you view Christians in other areas as being disconnected from you?
- b)Do you view Christians of other denominations as being separated from you?
- c)Do you view someone in this room as being apart from you?

2.Wrath's Family

- a)Do you see the lost in your closest circles? (family, work, school, neighbors)
- b)Do you pray for the lost who are like you?
- c)Do you hold people of the world in contempt for any reason?

3.Do you rejoice that God's has caused His grace to reach a Gentile like you?

C.Do you see that God is invested in, and working to spread the knowledge of His grace?

- 1.If you see this, does this build your faith?
- 2.Or do you at times find it hard to believe that God will pursue someone in your life?