

Recognizing Cornelius

Pastor Gary Ford May 9th 2020

Script - **Eph. 6:1-3**

A. Acts 10 Story - Peter's vision

1. Peter's interpretation of the vision (about people not food).

a. **Acts 10:28** Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. NKJV

b. **Acts 10:34-35** Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. NKJV

c. **Acts 11:18** When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." NKJV

2. Lessons from this story

a. Although Cornelius was a leader among the gentiles, he was unrecognized and unappreciated by the Jewish leaders of the church.

b. God used him to open the way for the gospel to be preached to many others.

c. The accepted norm may not be the way that God is leading.

d. We all have to be open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

3. What does Solomon say about our natural tendency of "self justification".

a. **Prov 16:2** All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, But the LORD weighs the spirits. NKJV

b. **Prov 21:2** Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts. NKJV

c. **Prov 26:12** Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. NKJV

B. There is a similar situation today in the world with mother's getting the recognition and acceptance they deserve.

1. Very little is mentioned in the Bible about mothers.

a. Mary, the mother of Jesus

b. Jochebed, the mother of Moses

c. Hannah, the mother of Samuel

d. A few others are barely mentioned in passing.

e. Even the scribes who recorded sacred history mention the men's names but leaves out many of the women's names (Mrs. Noah, etc.)

C. There are feminine characteristics in the Scriptures about the character of God.

1. In the Bible the image of God was not complete without male and female. **Gen. 1:26-27.**

2. God never gives up

a. **Isa 65:2** I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, according to their own thoughts; NKJV

b. **Rom 10:21** But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people." NKJV

c. **2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. NKJV

3. Compassionate

a. **Ex 33:18-19** And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." 19 Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." NKJV

b. **Ps 135:14** For the LORD will judge His people, and He will have compassion on His servants. NKJV

c. **Mt 9:36** But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. NKJV (mentioned over 20 times)

4. Loving and affectionate - Gathering together as a hen gathers her chicks

a. **Mt 23:37-39** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate; 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' " NKJV

D. Today we have a chance to not only preach about “acceptance and recognition” but to put it into practice by recognizing some among us that world may undervalue. Some of the women among us that have made a significant contribution to our well being. They have made their contribution without pay, status and recognition bestowed upon them. They did it because they believed that the job was worth doing.

1.**PP 244** The importance of motherhood.

a. How far-reaching in its results was the influence of that one Hebrew woman, and she an exile and a slave! The whole future life of Moses, the great mission which he fulfilled as the leader of Israel, testifies to the importance of the work of the Christian mother. There is no other work that can equal this. **To a very great extent the mother holds in her own hands the destiny of her children. She is dealing with developing minds and characters, working not alone for time, but for eternity. She is sowing seed that will spring up and bear fruit, either for good or for evil. She has not to paint a form of beauty upon canvas or to chisel it from marble, but to impress upon a human soul the image of the divine.** Especially during their early years the responsibility rests upon her of forming the character of her children. The impressions now made upon their developing minds will remain with them all through life. Parents should direct the instruction and training of their children while very young, to the end that they may be Christians. They are placed in our care to be trained, not as heirs to the throne of an earthly empire, but as kings unto God, to reign through unending ages.