



Week 7

Acts 10: Mission

Text: Acts 10

OPEN

This is our seventh week of our series in Acts called **“Unstoppable”** based on Acts 5:42 which says, “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, **they never stopped** teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.” The book of Acts is the story of the unstoppable movement of Jesus through the ministry of his Church that we are part of today as a **people of God, filled with the Spirit of God, to fulfill the mission of God, by sharing Jesus with others.** This week we continue the story in Acts 10 where Peter learns that God’s mission through God’s people (Israel) is now flowing to ALL people. The Samaritans, an Ethiopian, and now an entire household of gentile believers have also been caught up in the unstoppable mission of God.

READ

Read Acts 4:1-12 and 10:34-48. Compare the two accounts of how Peter is received for preaching/teaching.

- What are the differences of the audience in both passages?
- How does each audience respond? Was the word well received or opposed?

Acts 10 is one of four examples that Luke provides in Acts describing individuals who are *already saved* being baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit (see The apostles at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13), the Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17), Cornelius’s household (Acts 10:44-48), and in the Ephesian twelve (Acts 19:2). Both Paul and Luke write of the same Holy Spirit but with different perspectives. Paul for *salvation* and Luke for *service*. The same Holy Spirit that initiates our salvation also empowers for mission.

- Share a time with the Holy Spirit empowered you to share Jesus with someone else? What was the result?
- How has the Holy Spirit changed enabled you to be more like Jesus?

REFLECT

In Jewish culture, if you didn’t have what it took to be a rabbi at age 15 you would instead learn the family trade. Peter was one of those that didn’t make the cut and was working the family trade as a fisherman when Jesus called him. Peter learned that God calls *unlikely people* to be a part of his kingdom.

- Although Peter struggled to accept that God would save gentiles, do you think his humble beginnings helped prepare him to accept other unlikely recipients of God’s salvation?
- How has your background or experience helped you accept others?

God sends Peter to Cornelius who represents his enemy (Rome) and someone he would not associate with (Gentile). This was an unlikely encounter.

- Share a time when God has given you an unlikely encounter with someone? What was the most unusual/unlikely conversation you have had with someone about Jesus? What happened?
- Think about others in your life. Do you ever seek out others who are different than you to share Jesus? Who in your life could you intentionally connect with to begin sharing Jesus? How could you begin praying and intentionally pursuing that opportunity?
- When Peter goes to the home of Cornelius he says that he shouldn’t be there and went solely because God directed him to. Are there aspects of your walk where you do things because God asked you to but you lack a genuine willingness?

APPLY/PRAY

- What person in your life could God be nudging you to be more intentional about sharing Jesus with? Pray for courage and opportunities this week.
- God called Peter to take an unlikely next step. What next step are you sensing God is calling you to take in your faith journey? What is an obstacle blocking you? Pray about that.
- Continue to pray for our elders, staff, and leaders as they following the Spirit’s leading in this time of transition for our church.

