

What God Has Made Clean

June 2, 2019

Scripture:

The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. ¹⁰ And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." ¹⁵ And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." ¹⁶ This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. ¹⁷ Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, behold, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate ¹⁸ and called out to ask whether Simon who was called Peter was lodging there. ¹⁹ And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them." ²¹ And Peter went down to the men and said, "I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?" ²² And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to

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say." ²³ So he invited them in to be his guests. The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. (Acts 10:9-23 ESV)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Gal. 3:28 ESV)

From the Introduction:

This morning I would like to build on this last point, *koinos*, and how remembering that we who were one “common and unclean” are called to reach all for whom Christ died.

Outline:

- 1) Peter _____ (v. 9)
 - a) Peter _____ God.
 - b) His intended prayers were probably _____.
- 2) Peter _____ (vv. 14, 19-20)
 - a) Peter _____ God.
 - b) He did not ignore God’s _____.
- 3) Peter _____ (v. 20)
 - a) Peter _____ God.
 - b) He set aside personal _____ for Christian obedience.

Remember :

¹⁷ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's Way? (Acts 11:17)

Reflect:

But Peter, when sent by the Spirit, did not wait for the command of God the Father, but acknowledged that message was from the Spirit Himself, and the grace that of the Spirit Himself, when he said: "If, then, God has granted them the same grace as to us, who was I that I should resist God?" – Ambrose of Milan

Seek:

In his introduction, the pastor poses the question, "How willing am I to accept those whom I see as 'common' and receive them joyfully into God's kingdom?" Take a moment to reflect, and ask yourself, "Is there anyone I might choose not to reach because of my personal prejudices?"

Share:

In our passage we see that Peter “prayed” and “listened.” Share a time when your prayer life was interrupted by God. Did you stop to hear what he wanted to say, or did you press on through with your agenda?

Serve:

In obedience to God, Peter set aside all personal prejudice for the sake of the lost. Who might God be calling you to that would require to do the same? How can He help you accomplish the task?

Pray:

Ask God to give you a heart for all who are lost. Ask Him to show you who the *koinos* (common, ordinary, unclean) in your life, and how you might overcome any prejudice to reach them for Christ.