

Lecture 11 – The Flow of Thought from Acts 10-17 & an Exegesis of Acts 10:34-43

“Then Peter began to speak: I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.” Acts 10:34-35

Key Terms

Clean and unclean, expansion, external growth, Council of Jerusalem

Objectives

- *Describe the flow of thought for Acts 10-17.
- *Formulate what the overarching theme is of Acts 10-17.
- *Describe what is happening at the council of Jerusalem.
- *With the help of Acts 10:34-43, write a summary of the Gospel.

The Flow of Thought from Acts 10-17 & an Exegesis of Acts 10:34-43

I. Chapter 9

- A. Paul is chosen as an instrument to carry the name of Christ before Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

II. Chapters 10 and 11

- A. External expansion continues
- B. Peter presents the Gospel to the first group of Gentiles.
- C. Tanners: Considered ceremonially unclean
- D. With every step, Peter is defiling himself.
- E. Theme: ‘What God pronounces clean, man shall not consider unclean.’
- F. Groups in NT:
 1. Palestinian Jews
 2. Diaspora Jews
 3. Proselytes
 4. God-fearers
 5. Gentiles
- G. Narration of the story and then retelling of the same events by the person who is in the story to another audience.
- H. Emphasis: Expansion, cutting through the barrier of reaching into the “unclean” Gentile world
- I. Witness of the Diaspora Jews

III. Chapter 12

- A. Peter’s indirect witness to Herod Agrippa I
- B. God, the God of history, reaches to people outside the church.
- C. God has sovereignty and authority over rulers.
- D. We need to pray for leaders who suppress people in their own countries.

IV. Chapter 13

- A. External growth
- B. Witness goes beyond the second base, Antioch
- C. Important centers:
 1. Jerusalem
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. Corinth
- D. Demonic opposition to the spread of the Gospel
- E. Curse pronounced on Bar-Jesus, the sorcerer

F. Speech of Peter in Antioch

G. Verses 13:46 ff.

1. Paul preaches to Jews first, then to Gentiles.
2. See also 13, 14, 17, 18, 19 ff.

V. Chapter 14

- A. Theme 'external growth' continued
- B. Signs and wonders as confirmation of the message of grace
- C. Internal strengthening

VI. Chapter 15

- A. Fundamental, internal crisis
- B. Crisis invited by the fact that barriers had been broken down
- C. The differences among people become visible as the message goes out.
- D. Issue: Not just circumcision, but _____
- E. Judaizers: Inclined towards Gospel, but: salvation through keeping the Law
- F. Peter's speech at council
- G. Affirmation of salvation by grace alone
- H. Instructions given by council are useful and important to keep for fellowship (with Jews)

VII. Chapter 16

- A. Further expansion: Derbe, Lystra, Phrygia, Galatia, Macedonia
- B. 16:22 Opposition

VIII. Chapter 17

- A. Further expansion: Thessalonica, Berea, Athens
- B. Pattern:
 1. Town
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. Opposition

IX. Peter's Speech in Acts 10:34-43

- A. Peter presents the Gospel to Gentiles.
- B. Context of speech: 'Defiling' progression of Peter
- C. Due to Gentile audience not so much reference to OT
- D. Sermons to Jews: Reference to _____
 Sermons to Gentiles: Reference to _____
 This sermon: Somewhere in between
 1. Why?
 - a. These God-fearers already worshipped the God of Creation.
 - b. They needed to see who Jesus was.
- E. Structure of this sermon gives a rough outline of Gospel of Mark

F. Blueprint

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 10:37 | _____ |
| 10:38 | _____ |
| 10:38-39a | _____ |
| 10:39b | _____ |
| 10:40 | _____ |
| 10:41 | _____ |
| 10:42 | _____ |

- G. The household of Cornelius comes to Christ.
- H. Thanks to the Jews, Cornelius and his household were already God-fearers
- I. Structure of Gospel presentation
- J. Chapter gives you a feel of how the spread of the Gospel began