

Acts  
The Gospel Is for Everyone  
Acts 9:32 – 11:18

The scope of Jesus' message and ministry has always been larger than anyone can imagine. The Jewish people rejected Jesus because they believed that Messiah was coming to judge the nations, not rescue the nations. Yet, Jesus took the time not only to speak to a Jewish Pharisee and a Samaritan woman but also to celebrate the faith of a Greek Syro-Phoenician woman and a Roman centurion. In the gospels, Jesus offers his message and ministry to Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the world, all within a 125 mile stretch between Jerusalem and Capernaum, because the gospel is for everyone.

1. The gospel reveals a God who has power over sickness and death.
  
2. The gospel reveals a God who uses preaching to change hearts.
  
3. The gospel reveals a God who extends grace to the nations.

The truth is that we should celebrate the fact that God has extended His grace to all people and that we have been given the responsibility to take that gospel of grace to the nations, to people groups who have yet to be reached. We like Peter and as we will see like Paul, should be about the business of introducing people to Jesus and inviting them to respond to His offer of salvation. We are called to pray for that mission, give to that mission and even go on that mission because as these stories remind us, the gospel is for everyone.

For further consideration

When you think of miracles, what comes to mind? Why do you think Luke recorded the two miracles at the end of Acts 9? What do these miracles teach us about Christ and His kingdom? What are some of the things that stand out to you in the story of Cornelius' conversion? Why is his story pivotal in redemptive history? How does the story of Cornelius' conversion speak to the sin of partiality? How does this story highlight the nature and importance of gospel hospitality? How can you pray for opportunities to share Jesus this week? Where can you look for ways to open your home to those who may one day be ready to receive the gospel of Jesus?