

Acts 10:34-48 ESV

God-Fearing Mothers

Respect God and His Word

Teach Their Children about Jesus

Sunday, May 10 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, May 11 at 7 PM

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Join us on Ascension Day, May 14: Meal at 6, Service at 7

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: God worked through our mothers to bring each one of us into this world; furthermore, God used them to provide our needs, protect us from danger, and teach us many things! So, as Dr. Luther wrote, let us “honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them” (Fourth Commandment Explanation).

As we turn to Acts chapter 10, which is past the time of Jesus’ saving work, many still viewed God’s blessings as being only for the Jews. So, through a vision, the Lord made it clear to Peter that the time of distinguishing between various foods and various people groups had come to an end; all food was clean and all people had been redeemed through Jesus! So, in today’s text, Peter, in the home of a God-fearing Gentile, is about to tell him, his relatives, and close friends about Jesus:

- God Does Not Show Favoritism:** ³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears [fearing, reverencing, respecting] him and does [doing] what is right is acceptable to him. // So sinners are prejudice – favoring one over another, but not God nor those who are God’s holy children through Jesus!

- What does it mean to fear God? “...to have a healthy reverence of Him so that we respect Him and His Word...” (TLSB, 1001). That is true of God-fearing mothers; then they use the Bible to teach their children about God’s work of creation—He is an awesome God, God’s work of redemption—He is a loving God, and God’s work to supply our needs—He is a caring God!
 - What is the noticeable result of fearing God? ^{NAS Ps. 111:10} “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments...” So aware of our sins, sorry for our sins, and forgiven thru Jesus, we and God-fearing mothers desire to do the LORD’s will!
- Jesus:** Peter now tells Cornelius and the others with him about Jesus: ³⁶ As for the word that [God] sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all [not just Lord of the Jews, but Lord of all]), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: // So the Gentiles had heard, but Peter continues with his own eyewitness account:
 - His ministry: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power [referring to the beginning of His ministry when He was baptized; these next words describe Jesus’ ministry]. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. // Peter personally saw and told others about Jesus’ amazing ministry!

- b. His death and resurrection: **They** [the Jews along with the Romans] **put him to death by hanging him on a tree** [He became a curse for us (Gal. 3:13)], ⁴⁰ **but God raised him on the third day** [showing God's acceptance of His sacrifice] **and made him to appear,** ⁴¹ **not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.** // As God chose certain ones to see and tell, so God-fearing moms have been chosen to believe in Jesus and tell their children about Him!
- c. The proclamation of His work: ⁴² **And [Jesus] commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead** [on the day when He returns (Matt. 25:31-46)]. ⁴³ **To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name** [not by our works, but by believing in Him and His works (John 6:47)]. // So Jesus' coming was promised; then He came, lived, died, and rose! Now the good news of His saving work is being proclaimed; **all who believe in Him for eternal life have God's gift of forgiveness!**

3. **Noticeable Evidence that Salvation Is for Everyone:**

- a. Evidence of the Holy Spirit: ⁴⁴ **While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard** [the ones listening to] **the word.** ⁴⁵ **And the believers from among the circumcised** [the Jews] **who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.** ⁴⁶ **For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling [praising] God.** //

First, note that “the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word,” so the Spirit works in conjunction with the word. Second, the invisible H.S. was making His presence known through their tongues; He wanted Peter and the others to know for certain that salvation is for everyone!

- b. Baptism into Christ: **Then Peter declared,** ⁴⁷ **“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”** ⁴⁸ **And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.** // So Cornelius, “a devout man who feared God” (v. 2), and the others learned more about Jesus from Peter, were shown by the H.S. to be believers, and were baptized into Christ, thus, according to *Ephesians 1:13*, they were “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we take possession of it...” Saved now, but more to come!

Conclusion: So God-fearing mothers are so important in the lives of their children: bringing them to be baptized, teaching them the Bible, bringing them to Sunday School, teaching them the catechism, and, *all the while*, being a living example of a forgiven sinner who knows Jesus as her Savior!

Let us pray: Dear Lord, thank You for our God-fearing moms! May You draw all mothers to know You; then use them to teach their children about You! And all God's people said: **Amen!**