**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Sharing the Light |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Acts 10:34-48 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2015 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. What would you do if someone were to invite you to their house to tell them and their family what Christianity is all about?
   2. What would you do if someone were to give you an invitation to explain why you believe what you believe?
      1. That is the story of today’s message.
   3. Cornelius was a pagan and a centurion, a Roman army officer.
      1. An angel told Cornelius to send for Simon Peter so that he could tell him how he and his house could be saved.
   4. God had to work on Simon Peter to get him to go into a Gentile house.
      1. Simon Peter was of the Jewish faith.
         1. The Jewish people didn’t have much dealings with the Gentiles.
      2. The Lord worked through an angel on Cornelius.
      3. The Lord worked through a vision on Simon Peter.
   5. Peter went to Cornelius’ house and told him why he should believe on Jesus.
      1. Peter gave him three lines of evidence, or three witnesses.
         1. If we share Jesus Christ, then we will share Jesus the same way that Simon Peter did.
      2. Acts 10:34-44
         1. This is a three-fold witness:
            1. The personal witness of the saints.
            2. The prophetic witness of the Scriptures.
            3. The persuasive witness of the Spirit.
   6. In today’s message, we will look at these three lines of evidence and see what we could say if we are ever invited into a home to share Jesus Christ.
2. the personal witness of the saints (acts 10:39)
   1. The apostles were eyewitnesses.
      1. This was not a fable.
      2. This was a fact.
      3. They saw it with their own eyes.
   2. The apostles had the united witness of eleven men.
      1. If we were to get a jury, we could not have gotten a more balanced or diverse jury then these eleven men.
         1. John was young, observant, and sensitive.
         2. Peter was burly, rough, and a hard-working fisherman.
         3. Simon the Zealot was a political activist.
            1. He was a political zealot.
         4. Nathaniel and Thomas both tended to be skeptical.
            1. They wanted to see.
            2. They had inquiring minds.
         5. Matthew was a political businessman.
            1. One would not put anything over on Matthew.
         6. Andrew was gentle, compassionate, and liked the little person.
         7. Philip was a thinker.
            1. He was calculating.

He figured out how much bread it would take to feed the 5,000.

John 6:5-7

* + - 1. James was honest.
         1. He would tell it like it was.
    1. These eleven men were diverse, yet they all agreed on one thing:
       1. That Jesus is Lord.
  1. They were eyewitnesses of His virtuous life.
     1. Acts 10:34
     2. Acts 10:38-39
     3. Jesus changed water into wine.
        1. How did Peter know?
           1. He drank some of it.
     4. Jesus walked on water.
        1. How did Peter know?
           1. He saw Him.
     5. Jesus raised Jairus’ daughter from the grave, healed the sick, and cleansed the lepers.
        1. Peter saw these things with his own eyes.
     6. They were with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration.
        1. Jesus was transfigured before their faces.
     7. They heard with their ears Almighty God speak out of the heavens and say, “*This is My beloved Son*.”
        1. Matthew 17:5
     8. The apostles were eyewitnesses of Jesus’ virtuous life.
        1. Jesus was totally unique.
           1. There was never another like Him.
        2. He went about doing good.
  2. They were eyewitnesses of His vicarious death.
     1. Acts 10:39
     2. Jesus went about doing good, and how did we reward Him?
        1. We crucified Him.
           1. The one who did good was made a curse.

Deuteronomy 21:23

* + - * 1. He was nailed to a cross.
        2. He poured out His life’s blood.
    1. The apostles saw Jesus die.
    2. They saw Him taken down from the cross.
  1. They were eyewitnesses of His victorious resurrection.
     1. Acts 10:40-41
     2. They saw Jesus crucified, buried, and raised from the dead.
     3. It was not a hallucination.
        1. Five hundred people don’t have the same hallucination at the same time.
           1. 1 Corinthians 15:6
     4. They ate with Him and drank with Him.
  2. Why did the apostles witness in this way?
     1. It was not for personal gain.
        1. They were going to prison.
     2. It was not for ease.
        1. Most of them would be martyred.
        2. They were going to get into trouble.
           1. Some people may live for a lie, but few people will die for a lie.
           2. People don’t tell lies to get into trouble, they tell lies to get out of trouble.
     3. When these men talked about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they knew that they would get into trouble.
  3. We should have a personal witness like Simon Peter.
     1. If you have experienced the Lord Jesus, then what you have not seen with the physical eye, you have understood with the eye of faith.
     2. A Christian with a glowing testimony is never at the mercy of an unbeliever with an argument.
     3. A witness is someone who tells what he has seen and heard.
     4. Jesus did not say that we will be His lawyers; He said that we will be His witnesses.
        1. Acts 1:8
     5. The reason why some people do not witness is because they have not seen or heard anything.
        1. They have nothing to witness about.
        2. But a Christian with a glowing witness is worth a library full of arguments.
           1. Acts 10:39

1. the prohpetic witness of the scriptures (acts 10:43)
   1. This verse sums up all of the Old Testament.
      1. The theme of the Old Testament is the Lord Jesus Christ.
   2. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the greatest proofs that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
   3. All of the prophets speak in unanimity, with no contradiction, and they say that Jesus is Lord.
   4. It is estimated that there are more than 300 direct Old Testament prophecies that prophesy the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ the first time.
      1. The fulfillment of these prophesies in one person, apart from divine inspiration, is a mathematical impossibility.
   5. Skeptics say that it may appear that Jesus fulfilled these prophecies, but it was a scheme.
      1. They say that Jesus just managed it all, that He rigged it so that it would seem that He fulfilled these prophecies.
         1. Jesus did manage it.
   6. The Lord Jesus managed the following:
      1. He managed where He would be born.
         1. Micah 5:2
         2. Matthew 2:1
            1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
         3. He managed that centuries before He was born.
      2. He managed, before He would ever be born, that Isaiah would give intimate details of His birth and prophesy His virgin birth.
         1. Isaiah 7:14
            1. The fulfillment of this prophecy was that the Lord Jesus would be born of a virgin.

Matthew 1:18-25

* + 1. Isaiah told about the Lord Jesus’ life.
       1. Isaiah 53:4-5
          1. Isaiah prophesied the bleeding, bruised, and broken body of the Lord Jesus.
          2. He prophesied the stripes laid upon His back.
       2. Isaiah prophesied that when Jesus was buried, He would be buried in a rich man’s tomb, and he prophesied that Jesus would be crucified between thieves.
          1. Isaiah 53:9
          2. How did Isaiah know that Joseph of Arimathea would take the body of Jesus?

Matthew 27:57-58

Jesus was buried in a rich man’s tomb.

* + - * 1. Matthew 27:38
    1. Jesus arranged that Judas would betray Him for 30 pieces of silver.
       1. Zechariah 11:12
       2. Matthew 26:15
    2. Jesus arranged to be born in Bethlehem and that He would suffer, bleed, and die on the cross.
    3. He arranged that in Psalm 22, His crucifixion was so described that it sounds as though someone was sitting at the very foot of the cross.
  1. Simon Peter told Cornelius why he believed in Jesus.
     1. He gave his personal witness (what he had experienced).
     2. He gave the prophetic witness.
        1. From Genesis through Malachi, he showed how Jesus Christ fulfilled the Scriptures.
           1. It is an absolute mathematical impossibility that these Scriptures could be fulfilled apart from divine inspiration and the deity of Jesus Christ.
           2. Acts 10:43
  2. While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit begins to move on the heart of Cornelius.
     1. Acts 5:32
     2. Acts 1:8
     3. We do not have to depend upon our own rhetorical and oratorical ability to convince others.
        1. Anything we can talk someone into, someone else can talk them out of.
        2. We are totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit of God to convince others, just as Simon Peter was long ago.

1. the persuasive witness of the spirit (acts 10:44)
   1. While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit was there saying, “That is true.”
      1. The Holy Spirit is the one who really persuades us.
   2. The Holy Spirit witnesses to us.
      1. 1 John 5:9
         1. We all know what it is to trust; we trust every day.
            1. When we sit in a chair, we trust the people who made that chair.
            2. When we get in an airplane, we trust the pilot.
            3. We could not exist in society without receiving the witness of men.
         2. What is the witness of God?
            1. The Holy Spirit is the witness of God.
         3. The word “if” in this verse has the sense of “since” or “because”.
            1. Since we received or because we received the witness of men, the witness of God is greater.
      2. It is God the Holy Spirit who convicts us that the Gospel is true.
         1. While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell on them.
            1. Acts 10:44
         2. Acts 5:32
         3. We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to convince others.
            1. Before we witness to someone, we must ask the Holy Spirit to speak through us.
   3. The Holy Spirit witnesses in us.
      1. 1 John 5:10
      2. First, the Holy Spirit witnesses to us and we believe on Him.
         * 1. And now the witness, the Holy Spirit, lives on the inside.
      3. A Christian with a testimony is never at the mercy of an unbeliever with an argument because we have the internal witness.
         1. We have the witness in ourselves.
      4. Psalm 34:8
      5. Jesus is real to those who know Him.
   4. The Holy Spirit witnesses through us.
      1. When the Holy Spirit of God witnesses through us, we become persuasive.
      2. Simon Peter knew what he was talking about.
         1. The apostles were eyewitnesses.
            1. He told Cornelius what they had seen and experienced.
            2. This was the personal witness of the saints.
         2. He shared what the Bible said.
            1. This was the prophetic witness of the Scriptures.
      3. The Holy Spirit came with the persuasive witness of the Spirit and took what Simon Peter had to say and riveted it into the heart of Cornelius.
   5. What was the result of this three-fold witness?
      1. Acts 10:45-46
         1. The Gentiles began to speak with tongues.
         2. “*They of the circumcision*” was another way of saying “the Jewish people”.
         3. How did they know the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit?
            1. “*They heard them speak with tongues and magnify God*.”

This was the Gentile Pentecost.

* + - * 1. Acts 2:1-13

At Pentecost, there were devout Jews from every nation.

As a sign to the Jewish people, God gave them the ability to speak a supernatural language.

* + - 1. There were Jews present who were wondering if the Gentiles could be a part of the church of God.
         1. God gave a miracle sign (speaking in tongues) to show that they are a part of the church of God.

This showed that the old-time religion is the all-time religion, and the any-time religion, and the every-time religion and is for everyone.

* + 1. After they believed, Peter commanded them to be baptized.
       1. Acts 10:41
       2. If we truly believe that Jesus suffered, bled, and died and that He was buried and raised the third day, then we will want to be baptized in obedience to Him.
          1. We will not be ashamed of Him.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. How do you know who Jesus is?
      1. The personal witness of the saints.
         1. Millions of people say that Jesus Christ transformed their lives.
      2. The prophetic witness of the Scriptures.
         1. The more you study the Scriptures, the more you will find hidden beauties and not hidden flaws.
         2. Jesus is the hero of the Bible.
            1. Acts 10:43
      3. The persuasive witness of the Spirit.
         1. The Holy Spirit of God witnesses to you, and He witnesses in you.
   2. Faith is rooted in evidence.
      1. But faith goes beyond evidence to be faith.
         1. Then, faith becomes its own best evidence.
            1. You know because you know.
            2. You believe because you have believed.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16