

Getting Heaven's Attention: Persistent Faith and Extravagant Love

I. Cornelius' offerings of prayer and gifts to the poor (Acts 10:1-5).

- A. Cornelius gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly, despite a massive cultural and religious divide.
- B. God multiplied Cornelius' faith and love, even though he was a Gentile (Mark 4:24-25, 30-32).

II. Acts of extravagant love and worship

- A. Woman at the home of Simon, the Leper (Mark 14:3-9)
- B. Paul and Silas worshiping in jail (Acts 16:22-34)
- C. The widow's secret offering at the temple (Mark 12:41-44) and the Widow of Zarephath (I Kings 17:7-24)
- D. Getting the attention of the One who sees and rewards in secret (Matthew 6:1-4)

III. The power of saying "Thank you!" (Luke 17:11-19)

IV. The bold cry for mercy (Hebrews 4:14-16)

- A. Blind Bartimaeus—"Jesus stopped" (Mark 10:46-52).
- B. The "unclean" woman and Jairus, the "clean" synagogue official (Mark 5:21-43)
- C. Jonah's cry from the great fish (Jonah 2:1-10)

V. Shameless, audacious faith (Luke 11:1-13)

- A. The woman who wouldn't take "No" for an answer (Mark 7:24-30)
- B. The faith of the Centurion—Jesus was amazed and said, "I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith" (Matthew 8:5-13).
- C. Hezekiah's complaint—God responded, "I have heard your prayers and seen your tears; I will heal you" (II Kings 20:1-11).
- D. Jehoash, King of Israel, responding to the season of God's favor—"You should have struck the ground five or six times (II Kings 13:10, 14-19, 24-25).

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