Things that Stir the Heart of God

I. Cornelius' offerings of prayer and gifts to the poor (Acts 10:1-8, 44-48)

- A. Cornelius gave generously and regularly, despite a massive cultural and religious divide.
- B. This was love—love for God and love for others. The revelation Cornelius had was multiplied by God, resulting in the salvation of his entire household (Mark 4:24-25).

II. Acts of extravagant love and worship

- A. Mary of Bethany (Mark 14:3-9)—Mary is remembered today wherever the Gospel is preached.
- B. The "sinful woman" who anointed Jesus with perfume and oil (Luke 7:44-50)
- C. Paul and Silas (Acts 16:22-34)
- D. A widow's secret offering (Mark 12:41-44)
- E. The widow of Zarephath (I Kings 17:7-24)
- F. Getting the attention of the one who sees and rewards in secret (Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18)

III. Returning to say "Thank you!" (Luke 17:11-19)

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

- A. Blind Bartimaeus—"Jesus stopped" (Mark 10:46-52)
- B. "Unclean" woman—"Who touched my clothes?" (Mark 5:25-34).
- C. The story of Jonah (Jonah 2:1-10)

V. Shameless, audacious faith (Luke 11:5-10)

- A. The woman who wouldn't take "No" for an answer. "For such a reply..." (Mark 7:24-30)
- B. The faith of the centurion—Jesus "was amazed." "I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith" (Matthew 8:5-13).
- C. Hezekiah's complaint..."I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you" (II Kings 20:1-6).