

Acts 10

Acts 10.1-8

V1 – Centurion (leader of 100 men)

-See *Luke 7.1-5* – Jesus healed the servant of the centurion (this centurion had built a temple for the Jews)

-*Acts 27.1-43* – A centurion of the Augustan band saved Paul's life

-*Matt. 27.54* – The centurion who was standing at the foot of the cross said about Jesus, "Truly this was the Son of God"

V2-3 - 4 characteristics of Cornelius?

1. A devout man
2. Feared God with all his household (a good father)
3. Gave many alms to the Jewish people
4. Prayed to God continually

-Most denominational churches today would have welcomed Cornelius in as a good member

-What about Gentiles before the gospel of Christ?

-See *Romans 2.14-16* – They could be saved by observing good moral standards and the law of the heart (for example, the Code of Hammurabi, 1700 BC in Babylon)

V4 – Similar to whom? Paul (*Acts 9.5*)

-Why wasn't Philip called (he was already in Caesarea – *Acts 8.40*)? Because it was the Apostle Peter who was given "the keys of the kingdom"

-In other words, Peter was the one to welcome in the Jews in *Acts 2* and the Gentiles in *Acts 10* into the kingdom of God

V5 – What did the angel tell Cornelius to do? Send some men to the city of Joppa and find a man name Simon, also called Peter

V6 – Where was Peter staying in the city of Joppa? In the house of a tanner named Simon

-What does this tell us about Peter's "revised" view of the Law of Moses? Tanning was forbidden by the Old Law as being unclean

-The local tanner had to practice his work outside of town, so as not to corrupt the whole town

-So Peter was being prepared for the vision that was about to take place

V7 – How did Cornelius respond to the instructions of the angel? He prepared two servants and a "devout" soldier to leave for Joppa

-How could this soldier be described as being "devout"? According to the Patriarchal Age (See *Romans 2.28-29* – God's law for the Gentiles before the coming of the New Covenant in *Acts 2*)

-See *Galatians 3.29* – spiritual Jews, as opposed to racial Jews

V8 – What did Cornelius tell these men before they left? All that had happened and why they were being sent to Joppa

Acts 10.9-16

-Read Deut. 14.3-8ff – unclean animals under the Law of Moses

V 9 – How was Peter able to pray on the roof? It was a flat roof

V 10 – What happened as Peter was getting ready for breakfast? He fell into a trance (Greek word for "ecstasy")

V 11-12 – What did Peter see in the vision? A sheet with "unclean" animals on it

-Where in the Old Testament do we read about unclean animals (that the Jews were not supposed to eat)? *Leviticus 11*

V 13-14 – Why did Peter not want to see these animals? Unclean animals

-Had Peter ever eaten unclean animals in his life? Never

V 15 – What great lesson did Peter learn from this vision? That we are not to call anything that God made as unclean

V 16 – Why did God give Peter this vision three times? To make sure that he got the message!

Acts 10.17-23a

V 17 – Good education disturbs the equilibrium of the student – That is what God was doing for Peter

-What people did the Great Commission apply to? All creation, all the world

-Did the early Christians obey that commission? Not at first

-It took persecution in *Acts 8* to get them out of Jerusalem

V 18 – What did the men ask about? If Peter was staying there

V 19 – Luke is showing here that God was directing things, not just chance

V 20 – Explain "without misgivings" - Peter was not to doubt what was taking place

V 21 – What question did Peter ask? For what reason have you come here?

V 22 – Their answer? An angel appeared to our master Cornelius and asked to hear a message from you

V 23a – What was the response from Peter to these men? He gave them hospitality for the night (a place to stay)

Acts 10.23b-34

V 23b – His brethren? Some of them were Jewish converts (v 45 – circumcised)

V 24 – Significance of friends and relatives? A good man, with much influence

V 25 – Should men be worshipped? Remember Paul and Barnabas at Lystra – **Read Acts 14.11-15**

-How do people worship men today? Holy Father, Reverend, Father, priest, etc.

-Should angels be worshipped? *Revelation 22.8-9* – absolutely not

V 31 – Does God hear the prayer of the unrighteous person? *John 9:31* – The blind man who had been healed

-This shows the humility of Cornelius (rare among most people)

V 32 – A retelling of the final details of the trip

V 33 – What was so great about this audience? They were all waiting and sitting and ready to hear the word of God preached to them

Acts 10.34-43

Notice: Peter's sermon was short!

-How does this sermon compare with Stephen's sermon? Much shorter, with fewer references to the Old Testament)

-Why were there fewer references to the Old Testament? Because Cornelius was not a Jew and had very little background in the Old Testament

V 34 – The lesson that Peter had learned? Not to call any man or woman unclean (unworthy of the offer of salvation)

V 35 – Who is acceptable to God? Any person who fears God and does what is right

-Is it possible to fear God and yet not do what is right? Yes – Jonah was in that category

V 36 – Whom had God the Father send to preach to the Jews? His son Jesus Christ

V 37 – What immediately preceded the coming of Jesus as the Christ? John the Baptist and his baptism (he was to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah)

V 38 – What characteristics did Peter give concerning Jesus Christ?

1. He was anointed by God and the Holy Spirit
2. He went about doing good
3. He healed all those who were oppressed by Satan
4. God was with him

V 39 – What had Peter witnessed about Jesus Christ? The things that he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, and the crucifixion of Christ on the cross

V 40 – What was the final proof from God that this was his son? The resurrection of Christ from the dead on the third day

V 41 – How did the apostles know that Christ had truly been raised from the dead? He had eaten and drunk with them (he was not a ghost or some kind of spirit)

V 42 – What a verse! What orders had Christ given to his disciples? To preach the gospel and to warn people that a Day of Judgment was coming (for the living and the dead)

V 43 – Is belief the final act? No – *James 2.19*

Acts 10.44-48

V 44 – The Holy Spirit was given to the Gentiles

V 45 – What was the reaction of the Gentiles who heard this message? They were amazed that the gospel of Christ was being offered to them also

V 46 – What was evidence of this offer of salvation to the Gentiles? Speaking in foreign languages and praising God

V 47 – Is Peter calling for a vote? No, he is asking a rhetorical question (a thought question that does not require an answer)

-**What is the answer?** Of course, not – no-one can forbid a penitent sinner from being baptized

-**Note:** In some denominational churches [example: Baptist], the congregation takes a "vote" to accept a person into the church (based on this verse), but that is not the message here, and, besides, their "vote" is only ceremonial

V 48 – Why did Peter not baptize any of them? For the same reason that Paul did not want to baptize people at Corinth – **Read 1 Corinthians 1.14-17**

-He did not want a group of people to start following him, instead of Christ

Lessons from this chapter:

1. There is to be no racism in the presentation of the gospel of Christ
-*V 28* – The gospel is for all people
2. They had to accept the message of Peter and be baptized, in order to be saved

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