

Acts 10

- I. 10:1-8 An Angel Appears to Cornelius
- II. 10:9-16 Peter Receives a Vision
- III. 10:17-23 The Messengers Come to Get Peter
- IV. 10:24-33 Peter Meets Cornelius
- V. 10:34-43 Peter Tells the Gentiles about Jesus
- VI. 10:44-48 The Gentiles Believe

I. 10:1-8 An Angel Appears to Cornelius

- A. 10:1 *Caesarea* was the capital of Roman Palestine. This is where Pontius Pilate the governor normally lived. It was built by Herod the Great and was the Largest seaport on the coast of Palestine.
- B. 10:2 *one who feared God* While living among the Jews, Cornelius came to a faith in the God of Israel. Three categories in Judaism: Jews, proselytes, God-fearing Gentiles
- C. 10:4 *Alms* are “charitable gifts”. God remembered the prayers and generosity of Cornelius. He remembers your prayers and giving too.
- D. 10:5 *Joppa* was about 30 miles down the coast from Caesarea.

II. 10:9-16 Peter Receives a Vision

- A. Up to this point Peter had kept to a strictly kosher diet. Now God is revealing to Peter that He is going to set aside these regulations as part of His plan to reach the Gentiles.
- B. 10:16 *This was done three times* Probably it took Peter until the third time to quit arguing with it. For those of us that need to hear the same thing a few times before we learn it, we're in good company.

III. 10:17-23 The Messengers Come to Get Peter

- A. 10:19-20 First Peter gets this vision. Now the Holy Spirit is speaking to him about the messengers from Cornelius. God is orchestrating this whole event.
- B. 10:23 Peter is really growing in his acceptance of other people. First the tanner:
 - i. *“The Jews looked upon tanning as an undesirable occupation and well they might, for at best it was accompanied with unpleasant odors and unattractive sights, if not even ceremonially unclean.” (International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)*
 - ii. Now he's inviting Gentiles in to lodge with them.

IV. 10:24-33 Peter Meets Cornelius

- A. 10:25-26 Peter won't receive the kind of honor Corny wants to give him. Godly men and angels in the Bible never do. Only Jesus does because He deserves it.
- B. 10:31 Once again, God remember your prayers and giving too.
- C. 10:33 This would be the speaking opportunity of Peter's dreams. A crowd of people waiting and eager to hear all that he had to say about the Lord.

V. 10:34-43 Peter Tells the Gentiles about Jesus

- A. 10:36 *He is Lord of all* Let's be clear which Jesus Peter is talking about. This is not the Jesus who is simply a great teacher or a prophet or “gentle Jesus meek and mild”. This Jesus is **Lord of All**. Many people believe in a different Jesus – a Jesus who deserves a certain amount of respect but has zero authority over them.
- B. 10:42 Another title of Jesus: **Judge of the Living and the Dead**. Is that the Jesus you believe in? We will all stand in judgment before Him someday. Are you ready?
- C. 10:43 *remission of sins* This is the big issue – without Jesus we have no remission (forgiveness) of sins, the main thing we need.

VI. 10:44-48 The Gentiles Believe

- A. 10:44 *still speaking* Apparently the Lord figured Peter had spoken long enough.
- B. 10:48 These new Gentile believers were baptized – just as the Jews and Samaritans.
 - i. They asked Peter to stay longer so they could learn more about their new faith.
 - ii. From this point on the church will take on a mixed Jew-Gentile character.

Lessons:

From Cornelius:

- Religion is not enough – we need Jesus
- Being a good person is not enough – we need Jesus

From Peter:

- Changes regarding the law. Civil ceremonial Moral only applies to the church.
- Ethnic prejudice
- Religious prejudice

Bottom Line: **No one is beyond the reach of Jesus.**

Final Passage: **Ephesians 2:11-22**