

No! Lord!

Acts Chapter 10

Act 9:43 **1) Cornelius Introduction** vs 9:43 - 10:8

And Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner {named} Simon.

- This is a teaser for Chapter 10
- Tanners were considered unclean - Peter stayed with him in Joppa.
- History of Prejudice
 - GENTILE TOWARDS JEW
 - Biblical Accounts
 - Extra Biblical Accounts
 - JEW TOWARDS GENTILE
 - Torah
 - Known Historical Accounts
 - Reaction / Response to Anti-Semitism
- Peter is already crossing bias due to being a Christian. In home of an unclean Jew. But to be a brother or fellowship with a gentile ...NEVER!

Chapter breaks were not in Luke's Original. This is one continual account.

Act 10:1 Now {there was} a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort,

Act 10:2 a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the {Jewish} people and prayed to God continually.

- Caesarea was first known as a Phoenician city built by a king of Sidon in the 4th century BC. At that time it was called Straton or Strato's Tower
 - Herod rebuilt the city and named it after Caesar Augustus. It took 12 years to rebuild.
 - Herod could rule all of Palestine and sail to Rome quickly.
 - Caesarea was the official seat and capital to Palestine. It was here the governor, Pontus Pilate resided and would only go to Jerusalem for any festivals.
- Cornelius
 - a centurion
(legion = 6000 men; cohort (band) = 600 men lead by a "Tribune"; centurion = leader of 100 men)
Scripture tends to speak well of centurions
Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:6-9; Not Worthy - Understood Authority - Just send word
Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39-45; Saw Jesus - Earthquake "Truly this is the Son of God (Mk) Gave body up
Luke 23:47; Declared Jesus was Righteous
 - Devout
 - Individually fears God
 - Charges his whole household to fear God
 - Gives alms to Jewish poor
Psalm 41:1-3 *"How blessed is he who considers the helpless; The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble. The LORD will protect him and keep him alive, And he shall be called blessed upon the earth; And do not give him over to the desire of his enemies. The LORD will sustain him upon his sickbed; In his illness, You restore him to health."*
 - known for prayer
- Cornelius was in the category of what the Jews called *God-fearers* (**one who feared God**). These were Gentiles who loved the God of Israel and were sympathetic to and supportive of the Jewish faith. Yet they stopped short of becoming full Jews in lifestyle and in circumcision. (Guzik)
- Religious but needing Peter to come to preach forgiveness of sin. He Is Not Saved.

- Act 10:3 About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had {just} come in and said to him, "Cornelius!"
- 3:00 pm an angel comes to give direction an answer to his prayers
 - He knows Cornelius' name.
- Act 10:4 And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.
- Act 10:5 "Now dispatch {some} men to Joppa and send for a man {named} Simon, who is also called Peter;
- Act 10:6 he is staying with a tanner {named} Simon, whose house is by the sea."
- This angel from heaven knows a whole lot of details.
 - the angel knows his prayers and his alms
 - HEAVEN KNOWS. WE DO NOT NEED TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WHAT ARE DEVOTIONS ARE ABOUT OR ALL OUR GOOD DEEDS. HEAVEN KNOWS
 - **Matt 6:1-6** *"Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven. "So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. "But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees {what is done} in secret will reward you. "When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. "But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees {what is done} in secret will reward you."*
 - Tells Cornelius to send men to get Peter and even where to go find him.
- Act 10:7 When the angel who was speaking to him had left, he summoned two of his servants and a devout soldier of those who were his personal attendants,
- Act 10:8 and after he had explained everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.
- Cornelius obeys
 - He also sends a devout soldier. He is careful that the assignment is in trustworthy hands and of same mind.
- Act 10:9 **2) Peter's Preparation** vs 10:9 - 10:18
On the next day, as they were on their way and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray.
- Peter is praying at the noon hour.
- Act 10:10 But he became hungry and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance;
- We see that the Apostles encounter the same cravings and distractions as you and me. Haven't you ever entered into prayer and then hunger or something enters your mind that is urgent and can't seem to wait until you have finished prayer?
 - Peter fell onto a trance.
 - Trance + "ekstasis" ecstasy, amazement
 - Thayer's Lexicon - a throwing of the mind out of its normal state, alienation of mind, whether such as makes a lunatic or that of a man who by some sudden emotion is transported as it were out of himself, so that in this rapt condition, although he is awake, his mind is drawn off from all surrounding objects and wholly fixed on things divine that he sees nothing but the forms and images lying within, and thinks that he perceives with his bodily eyes and ears realities shown him by God.
 - Peter is consumed with what God is showing him.
- Act 10:11 and he *saw the sky opened up, and an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground,
- LIKE a sheet lowered by the corners

Act 10:12 and there were in it all {kinds of} four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air.

- All kinds of animals Clean and unclean

Act 10:13 A voice came to him, "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!"

- Get Up, Kill, Eat Some would say God has commanded hunting.
- Peter has the pre-condition as a proper Jew to not eat unclean animals. He was properly raised, and he is committed to this indoctrination. Although he is finding areas that he is being stretched to believe and obey God he has his limits.
- What are your limits?

Act 10:14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."

- "By no means, Lord!"
- Peter has had a habit of telling the Lord "NO"!
 - Matt 16:22 When Jesus said that He should be crucified and Peter said "NO" Jesus responded "Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."
 - John 13:8 Jesus went to wash Peter's feet and Peter said "NO" Jesus responded "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."
- This statement is impossibility.
- You may say "No". You may say "Lord" but you cannot say "NO Lord".

Act 10:15 Again a voice {came} to him a second time, "What God has cleansed, no {longer} consider unholy."

Act 10:16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

- A second time the sheet came down and the voice was a strong correction to Peter and to you and me.
- If God cleansed something who are we to call it something else. We cannot look at other Christian groups or denominations and call them "unclean" or "unholy". The accuser of the brethren does that. Our role is to speak as our Father speaks.
- The sheet was lowered a third time. Peter has always been taught by 3s
 - Jesus woke Peter up 3 time in Gethsemane
 - The rooster crowed 3 times
 - Jesus asked "do you love me" 3 times
 - Jesus told him to feed/tend His lambs/sheep 3times
- This is a very interesting principal seen in this chapter. God is working on both ends of a deal. We see that God is working on two people that are pivotal in the Gentiles receiving the Gospel and neither one knows of the other. But God Does.

Act 10:17 Now while Peter was greatly perplexed in mind as to what the vision which he had seen might be, behold, the men who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions for Simon's house, appeared at the gate;

Act 10:18 and calling out, they were asking whether Simon, who was also called Peter, was staying there.

- Peter is perplexed. He knows it means something important but what? I love this also. This happens to me often and I know something great is given to me and yet I don't really know what it is or how that will effect my life. But give it a little time and God will continue to work out His Word in our lives.
- These men are calling out from the gate. It was not lawful (religious law) that a gentile should enter the house of a Jew. It would be unclean. These three were observing this law. But things are changing.

Act 10:19 **3) Peter's Journey** vs 10:19 - 10:23

While Peter was reflecting on the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you.

Act 10:20 "But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings, for I have sent them Myself."

- Something can be said concerning on meditation of the Word that God gives you. In meditation the Spirit will speak to you and clarify how the Word will affect your life.
- Three men 3's again.
- Accompany them WITHOUT MISGIVINGS. No complaining, arguing, rolling of the eyes, sighing
- FOR I MYSELF HAVE SENT THEM. The reason is indisputable. God is saying "Don't argue with Me!"

Act 10:21 Peter went down to the men and said, "Behold, I am the one you are looking for; what is the reason for which you have come?"

Act 10:22 They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews, was {divinely} directed by a holy angel to send for you {to come} to his house and hear a message from you."

- The account of Cornelius is relayed to Peter.

Act 10:23 So he invited them in and gave them lodging. And on the next day he got up and went away with them, and some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

- Another wall is broken down. Peter invited them to stay in
- Not only this but welcomed them to lodging with him.

Act 10:24 **4) Jew & Gentile Meet** vs 10:24 - 10:33

On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

- 30-35 mile journey north from Joppa is Caesarea.
- Peter & Cornelius still do not know each other.
 - Peter hears he is a centurion, he is devout, he prays, he has practical compassion giving to the Jewish poor, he had a vision and sent for Peter.
 - Cornelius hears there is a Jewish man staying at a tanner's house. A man that angels/heaven knows and He has something to teach you.
- This is 3 days later. It seems word came to Cornelius that the group has arrived in Caesarea, and Cornelius sees this so important that he calls his family and friends to come to hear the message. Yet he doesn't know the message or the messenger. He trusted the word that came from heaven.

Act 10:25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped {him.}

Act 10:26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am {just} a man."

- This meeting illustrates the culture clash. The Roman whose background taught him that there are many Gods and that a man can be a God (Caesar) meets Peter who believes in one God and that recently knows that God became man.
- The worship of a man also reveals that Cornelius doesn't fully understand the Judaism that he respects and much less Jesus as the Messiah.
- Peter knew he wasn't to be worshiped. He was just a man.

Act 10:27 As he talked with him, he entered and *found many people assembled.

Act 10:28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and {yet} God has shown me that I should not call any man unholly or unclean.

- Peter enters in and there were a number of people waiting. This could be a troubling position Peter is now in. 1st to go visit a Gentile when he really doesn't want to. 2nd he is in a foreigner's house and a foreigner that has authority. 3rd he discovers a number of people (many) are waiting for him.
- Will he be beaten or does he have to perform before an audience?
- "YET GOD" is always the confidence builder. To know that God has called you to do that which causes discomfort/stress lessens the stress knowing that you are in His will.

- Hebrews 13:5-6 " He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?""
- John 14:16,17,+27 " And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that HE MAY ABIDE WITH YOU FOR EVER; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you..... PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED, NEITHER LET IT BE AFRAID."

- Peter now understands the trance (the sheet of unclean & clean)

Act 10:29 "That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me."

- Although Peter knows he is to be here in Cornelius' house he doesn't know the particulars.
- Peter told his story so now Cornelius then tells his end of the story.

Act 10:30 Cornelius said, "Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments,

Act 10:31 and he *said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.

- The good deeds are before God. He sees them.
- Does God hear the prayers of the sinner?
 - Jeremiah 14:12 " When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence."
 - Proverbs 1:28 " When they call on me I will not answer them"
 - John 9 the man who was healed by Jesus was grilled by the Pharisees about being healed by Jesus whom they considered a blasphemer (sinner). The man healed spoke the belief that " We know that God does not hear the sinner"
 - The context of God not hearing is not the sinner but God not hearing the wicked. The wicked is in rebellion towards God. The sinner which all of us were at one time may be walking in the light he has. And when God reveals more, he will walk according to that light. This one God will hear. When God revealed to us our sinful condition we responded and cried out to Him for forgiveness and He heard us.

Act 10:32 'Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon {the} tanner by the sea.'

Act 10:33 "So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

- To answer Peter's question, Peter is to deliver a message to them.
- God's Agency
 - God sent a man to present the Gospel. The angel could have done it. Jesus Himself could have done it. Nature is revealing it. Yet God sends a man to preach it. It is the same today. God sends you and me with a message to people whom God is preparing to receive the message.
 - God sent Peter not Philip who lives in Caesarea. This event in Chapter 10 is such a "Great Wall Crumbling" experience that this required an Apostle to witness and give testimony to it for the Christian Jews in Jerusalem to even consider the validity of it.

Act 10:34 **5) Peter's Sermon** vs 10:34 - 10:43

Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand {now} that God is not one to show partiality,

Act 10:35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

Act 10:36 "The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)--

- Peter is "NOW" seeing that God welcomes every nation.
- The difficulty for Peter wasn't that the gospel or salvation would come to a gentile. They knew that thru the Abrahamic covenant (Gen 12) that all nations will be blessed and Hosea said that a people

that were not His people would become His people (Hosea 2:23).

- The difficulty was that:
 - A Gentile would be saved without having to become a Jew 1st
 - And that God would not see a distinction between the two
- Peter will struggle with this some time in his life, yet he sees this as a divine truth.
- Some one once told me that "God is not a respecter of persons but a respecter of faith".
- "He is Lord of all" speaks of His deity. Not just a wealthy landowner, not a government official with authority, but someone more. Lord of All. Even Lord of the authority of Rome.

Act 10:37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.

Act 10:38 "{You know of} Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and {how} He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

- YOU and heard and YOU know. Peter is acknowledging to Cornelius that they have heard about Jesus Christ.
- Peter's next words in his message, is the same message that he spoke to the Jews. Peter doesn't have a message for this people group and a different one for this other group. Not that a good man lived and died but a message of:
 - Death & Burial
 - Resurrection
 - Preaching the Forgiveness of Sins.

Act 10:39 "We are **witnesses** of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They **The Gospel** also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

Act 10:40 "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,

- God Raised Him Up.

Act 10:41 not to all the people, but to **witnesses** who were chosen beforehand by God, {that is,} to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

Act 10:42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

- Peter is saying that Jesus is the Judge. Whether you believe or not; Jesus will judge you.

Act 10:43 "Of Him all the prophets bear **witness** that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

- 3 times we see Peter in this very short message that He witnessed and is to bear witness to these things. This is obviously an emphasis in Peter's life. He knows what he is and what he is called to do.
- "Who ever believes in Him"
 - Forgiveness comes in believing a person not performing a religion.
 - Peter is not explaining how to become a Jew then a believer in Jesus.
 - Peter is presenting Jesus not a religion. He is preaching Jesus.

- When you believed in Jesus, Your sins are forgiven!

Act 10:44 **6) Response to Preaching** vs 10:44 - 10:48

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

- As far as Peter knows the sermon is to continue. The Holy Spirit was just waiting for his last point.
- The Holy Spirit knew Peter's sermon wasn't going to get any better than this. It didn't need to.
- "Preaching is like drilling for oil, if after drilling for 20 minutes, if you haven't reached oil, stop boring" (Chuck Smith)
- Peter was Speaking. The People were Listening. In that combination the Holy Spirit will fall upon.
- No Alter Call. This was a silent transaction between a man's heart and God.

- Act 10:45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.
- Act 10:46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,
- Those who came with Peter were amazed. They too were having difficulty with this concept of the gentiles being recognized by God without partiality.
 - Speaking in tongues - just as on the Day of Pentecost
 - The tongue was an exalting God.
 - Acts 2:11 *"we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God."*
 - 1 Corinthians 14:2 *"For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in {his} spirit he speaks mysteries."*
 - Tongues are a message to God. Praise unto Him. It is prophecy that is a message to men.
- Act 10:47 "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we {did,} can he?"
- Act 10:48 And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.
- Peter calls for baptism.
 - Baptism here follows after believing. In believing a man has received forgiveness of sins.
 - Water Baptism didn't save them, Water Baptism recognized the salvation they already had.
 - The Holy Spirit fell before water baptism.
 - Other places the Holy Spirit fell after water baptism. Isn't wonderful the way God is free from our Theology, free from our doctrine, free from our orthodoxy.
 - Isaiah 60:1-3 *"Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."*

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