

I. MESSENGER'S MEETING

A. Peter and Cornelius

1. God spoke to both in a vision
 - a. One a Gentile Roman Soldier, devout acolyte, a centurion
 - b. One a Hebrew convert to Christianity, an apostle
 - c. God is proving what Peter later says out loud (vs. 34)
2. Cornelius is told that God has heard his prayer
 - a. Send messengers to Joppa and find Peter
 - b. It's interesting that God didn't say "Go to Joppa"
 - c. Else, what of all those people waiting in his house? (vs. 5 & 24)
 - i. Always obey EXACTLY the clear instructions of God
 - ii. We obey by FAITH that God knows better than we do
 - iii. God's Word is VERY clear!
3. Peter sees the vessel descending filled with unclean animals
 - a. God tells him to kill and eat but Peter rejects God's instructions
 - b. God has to tell him 3 times in total before he finally gets it
 - i. God often teaches a lesson and then gives us application
 - ii. It does us well to get our eyes off hardships in the lesson
 - iii. And look forward instead to how God will USE it in our life!
 - c. God gives Peter assurance this message was from God (vs. 19)

B. Holy Spirit Leadership is NEEDED in our lives too!

1. We might be tempted to say that Peter had it easy – the Spirit spoke
 - a. We know that God does not speak to us today in an audible voice
 - b. 1 COR. 13:10 – "But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."
 - c. We have our completed Bible – it is God's Word
 - i. We speak to God in prayer
 - ii. He speaks to us through His Word
 - iii. It is inerrant, infallible, and plenary (complete)
2. God can and WILL reveal His will to us if we are looking!
 - a. Canon – God's Word is our primary source
 - b. Comforter – God's Holy Spirit is our Guide
 - c. Counselors – God's People with experience and love
 - d. Circumstances – God's Hand will open and shut doors
3. Just think what could be done if Christians would just always obey God!
 - a. Just had a missions' conference – have we obeyed the Holy Spirit?
 - b. But it's more than that!
 - c. We just went to work last week... did we obey the Holy Spirit?

C. Peter meets and converses with the three men (vs. 21-23)

1. He gives them hospitality – they lodge with him that night
 - a. This is a VERY unprecedented thing!
 - b. Jews were not to entertain Gentiles, but God had SPOKEN
 - c. God had prepared him
 - i. Missionaries don't just wake up on the foreign field
 - ii. God prepares them! We call it surrender (explain)
 - iii. Peter didn't dig his heels in
 - iv. But he wouldn't have been ready the day before!
2. We see the Messenger's Meeting
3. Now let's look at Cornelius's Crowd. Hear Peter's Preaching. Investigate the Gentile's Gospel, and discuss the Church's Commission

II. CORNELIUS'S CROWD

- A. The next day the party leaves Joppa and journeys toward Caesarea (vs. 23-24)
 1. They must have made an unlikely group
 - a. Three gentile messengers – some perhaps Roman soldiers
 - b. Six Christian Hebrew men of Joppa ACTS 11:12
 - c. What must other travelers have thought as they passed?
 2. Peter knows God sent him. He has no doubts!
 - a. He started out with wonder, not knowing what to do (vs. 17)
 - b. But he got the message from God (vs. 34)
 - c. ACTS 11:12 – “And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:”
 - d. He was CONFIDENT in God's Word! You can be TOO!
 3. Wonder what they talked about on the road?
- B. Cornelius is at work in the meantime – He has gathered a crowd (vs. 24)
 1. He has his family and household there – what man wouldn't?
 - a. A man has to lead his household, that is God's will for a home
 - b. Don't send your kids to church – BRING them!
 - i. A real man will take the responsibility to do the work
 - ii. Praise God for a mother's who will step up
 - iii. My dad didn't come to church most of my life
 - iv. I'm THANKFUL my mom brought me!
 - c. I don't have to follow that pattern! It is not optional for my kids!
 2. He has his kinsmen there
 - a. He called up the cousins and his uncles and his brothers
 - b. He brought them all over to hear the Gospel
 3. He has his friends there
 - a. Anyone who would come, he asked them to wait – in FAITH
 - b. Remember, he had no idea when Peter would arrive
 - c. They were just sitting around... waiting... was Cornelius nervous?
- C. Peter arrives!

1. At first Cornelius tries to worship Peter (vs. 25)
 - a. A wealthy Roman Centurion at the feet of a Jewish fisherman!
 - b. Peter responds immediately! Stand up!
 - c. Peter was no pope, he didn't extend an effeminate hand
 - d. "You may kiss my fisherman's ring!"
2. Peter talked with him and went into the house of Cornelius
 - a. Remember, this was completely unheard of!
 - b. To go INTO a Gentile's house!
 - c. But Peter knows why he is there. He tells Cornelius (vs. 28-29)
 - d. Cornelius replies with a story of his own (vs. 30-33)
3. Now. We are all here. We're ready to hear what you what God said.
 - a. We have to imagine that Peter was probably a little speechless
 - b. It might have taken a moment to take all that in
 - c. But not very long, because Peter had a mission to complete

III. PETER'S PREACHING

- A. Peter explains the great lesson he just learned at Joppa (vs. 34-35)
 1. He understands the IMPARTIALITY of God
 2. By the way, he's about to go back to Jerusalem and fight with Judaizers
 - a. Some of the Jews wanted to think that they were more special
 - b. They are God's people, but the ground is level at the Cross
 - c. And by the way, just because we live in America doesn't mean we are special either – we are just sinners saved by Grace!
 3. God is NO respecter of persons
 - a. That Muslim needs the Gospel
 - b. That Mormon needs the Gospel
 - c. That Buddhists needs the Gospel
- B. Peter goes right in to preaching – he sees the need
 1. People are hungry for God today
 2. Lives are empty and desolate with the Savior
 3. Don't hesitate to give someone the Gospel!
- C. Peter here had a golden opportunity!
 1. A house FULL of people waiting to hear what God has to say
 2. So, Peter preaches the Gospel to the Gentiles

IV. GENTILE'S GOSPEL

- A. The title of Peter's message may well be "Jesus Christ, LORD OF ALL" (vs. 36)
 1. He didn't sugar coat the Gospel or meet the Romans where they were
 2. He didn't preach one message to the Jews and another to the Greeks
 3. He made the truth clear: God is impartial. Jesus is Lord. OF ALL!
 - a. Not just the Jews. Not just the Romans. ALL!
 - b. And Jesus Christ is STILL Lord of all today

- B. Peter provides some historical background
 - 1. He discusses the work of John the Baptist (vs. 37)
 - 2. He proclaims the Gospel – the DEATH BURIAL AND RESSURECTION
 - a. 1 COR. 15:3-4 – “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”
 - b. ROM. 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
- C. And he explains the commission given to churches (vs. 42)
- D. And the testimony of all the prophets (vs. 43)
- E. It all points to just ONE plan of Salvation in all ages!
 - 1. JUDE 1:3 – “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”
 - 2. The OT prophets looked forward to the Cross, we look backward
 - 3. But it is the SAME CROSS!

V. CHURCH’S COMMISSION

- A. These friends, family, household, and kinsmen or Cornelius were all Saved
 - 1. They heard the preaching of the Gospel and the believed
 - 2. And when they believed, the Holy Spirit indwelt them (just as today)
- B. We know they were saved, because Peter baptized them
 - 1. They became members of the church at Joppa
 - 2. Those men from Joppa couldn’t withhold membership (they saw it all!)
 - 3. A new mission work was founded in Caesarea that day!
- C. And then these new Church Members were discipled (vs. 48)
 - 1. That’s the Great Commission in full effect here in Acts chapter 10
 - 2. And it hasn’t changed!
- D. What about you? Do you know that Jesus Christ is Lord of ALL?
 - 1. But is He YOUR Lord?
 - 2. It is the same today as it was then. The Gospel has not changed
 - 3. It is still the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - 4. It still changes lives.
 - 5. It can change YOUR life
 - 6. Be Saved Today!