

Sermon Date: November 17, 2013
Acts 9:32-10:48 – Peter and Cornelius
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Healing, Resurrection and Dual Conversion

Read Acts 9:32-10:48

In his sermon, Jerry referred back to Acts 1:8 as a tie in to this part of scripture. “You shall receive power and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and even to the remotest parts of the earth” We will see this prophecy continue today as we see Peter share the gospel with one of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire really encapsulates the “ends of the earth.” Tie that verse in to section of the teaching and comment.

1. Jerry pointed out that throughout the scriptures we see the inconsistencies in Peter, yet God still uses him over and over again. In the same way, when we are inconsistent, if we listen to God’s Spirit, He will use us even in our inconsistencies. Where have you had God use you in your inconsistencies?

2. In Acts 10:1-8, we are introduced to Cornelius. As a Roman Centurion, he was a gentile, excluded from the Jewish faith. In v. 2 there are some interesting observations about Cornelius. What are they? What is interesting about God’s response to Cornelius in v. 4?

3. How many times did God say to Peter “Arise Peter, kill and eat” (v. 10-16)? Notice the similarities in this interaction with Jesus’ interaction with Peter from Matthew 26:34 prior to the crucifixion and the risen Jesus’ interaction with Peter from John 21:15-17.

From N. T. Wright: “Besides pork, there was a whole range of meat which Jews were forbidden to eat. These food laws served to mark out the Jewish people from their non-Jewish neighbors, a rule reinforced by the probation on Jews eating with non-Jews. All of this we must keep in mind as we join Peter on the roof and watch this great sail descending from heaven with unclean food in it.”

4. *Read Acts 10:9-16.* Why is it important to understand the significance of what the Lord was saying to Peter?
 - a. What had Peter learned from his vision which prepares him to meet Cornelius?

5. *Read Acts 10:17-36.* The Mosaic Law contains prohibitions against Jews mixing with Gentiles. The New Testament writers, including Paul, are quite clear that the law was God’s word to Israel and should be respected as such. There is a shift taking place in this passage that is very important to the faith going out to include Gentiles. This is the kind of shift in thinking which was going on as Peter went to

Cornelius's house. In Jesus the Messiah of Israel, God has broken down the barrier between Jews and Gentiles in order to reveal God's mercy to both. Comment on how this is taking place.

6. *Read Acts 10:34-48.* Now that Peter has an opportunity to tell Cornelius and the others whatever he wants, what does he highlight? What is significant about v. 34?
7. Jerry commented that the word "peace" in v. 36 can be translated as "salvation." Read v. replacing the word "salvation" with the word "peace." Why might it be important to see that designation?
8. *Read Acts 10:44-48.* How is life now different for Cornelius between the Cornelius we see in Acts 10:2-3 and Acts 10:48?
9. Jerry referred to section of scripture as "Dual Conversion." Who are the two primary people in Acts 10:10-48 who were converted?
10. Read and comment on Acts 10:45.
11. Why is the story of Cornelius and Peter in this section of scripture an incredibly important part of scripture for us as Gentile believers?

Jerry's Closing Thoughts:

God is impartial. Can we be impartial? Let us not assume anyone is unacceptable to God.

Use the resources God has given you. Don't look any farther than the heart of God when serving others.