



Lesson 13 – A Seeker for Truth

Based on Acts 9:32-11:18

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

Acts 9:32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at _____.

2) What did he do while he was there?

Acts 9:33-34 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the _____. And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he _____ immediately.

3) What was the result?

Acts 9:35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and _____ to the Lord.



Peter had made quite an impact on the community. God's Spirit was moving in great measure there.

4) What does Scripture mention as happening next?

Acts 9:36-37 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called _____: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and _____: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

At Joppa, which was near Lydda, there lived a woman named Dorcas, whose good deeds had made her greatly beloved. She was a worthy disciple of Jesus, and her life was filled with acts of kindness. She knew who needed comfortable clothing and who needed sympathy, and she freely ministered to the poor and the sorrowful. Her skillful fingers were more active than her tongue.

5) What did her friends do?

Acts 9:38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had _____ that Peter was there, they _____ unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them

6) What did he do when he got there?

Acts 9:40-41 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and _____; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her _____.

The apostle's heart was touched with sympathy as he beheld their sorrow. Then, directing that the weeping friends be sent from the room, he kneeled down and prayed fervently to God to restore Dorcas to life and health. Dorcas had been of great service to the church, and God saw fit to bring her back from the land of the enemy, that her skill and energy might still be a blessing to others, and also that by this manifestation of His power the cause of Christ might be strengthened.

7) How did that aid the spread of the Gospel?

Acts 9:42 And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many _____ in the Lord.

8) To Whom did God reach out to?

Acts 10:1-3 There was a certain man in Caesarea called _____, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much _____ to the people, and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an _____ of _____ coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.



9) How did Cornelius respond?

Acts 10:4-5 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a _____ before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one _____, whose surname is Peter:

Cornelius was a Roman centurion. He was a man of wealth and noble birth, and his position was one of trust and honor. A heathen by birth, training, and education, through contact with the Jews he had gained a knowledge of God, and he worshiped Him with a true heart, showing the sincerity of his faith by compassion to the poor. He was known far and near for his beneficence, and his righteous life made him of good repute among both Jews and Gentiles. His influence was a blessing to all with whom he came in contact.

Believing in God as the Creator of heaven and earth, Cornelius revered Him, acknowledged His authority, and sought His counsel in all the affairs of life. He was faithful to Jehovah in his home life and in his official duties. He had erected the altar of God in his home, for he dared not attempt to carry out his plans or to bear his responsibilities without the help of God.

10) What specific directions did the angel give to Cornelius?

Acts 10:6 He lodgeth with one _____ a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.

The explicitness of these directions, in which was named even the occupation of the man with whom Peter was staying, shows that Heaven is acquainted with the history and business of men in every station of life. God is familiar with the experience and work of the humble laborer, as well as with that of the king upon his throne.

11) What did the angel tell Cornelius?

Acts 10:5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is _____:

God gave evidence of His regard for the gospel ministry and for His organized church. The angel was not commissioned to tell Cornelius the story of the cross. A man subject, even as the centurion himself, to human frailties and temptations, was to be the one to tell him of the crucified and risen Saviour.

12) What are humans supposed to do?

Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should _____ among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

In His wisdom the Lord brings those who are seeking for truth into touch with fellow beings who know the truth. It is the plan of Heaven that those who have received light shall impart it to those in darkness. Humanity, drawing its efficiency from the great Source of wisdom, is made the instrumentality, the working agency, through which the gospel exercises its transforming power on mind and heart.

13) Where did the angel who spoke with Cornelius go next?

Acts 10:9-11 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, _____ went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a _____, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great _____ knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

The angel, after his interview with Cornelius, went to Peter, in Joppa. At the time, Peter was praying upon the housetop of his lodging. It was not for physical food alone that Peter hungered. As from the housetop he viewed the city of Joppa and the surrounding country he hungered for the salvation of his countrymen.



He had an intense desire to point out to them from the Scriptures the prophecies relating to the sufferings and death of Christ.

14) How did the vision continue?

Acts 10:12-13 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and _____ things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and _____.

15) Did Peter immediately comply?

Acts 10:14-16 But Peter said, _____, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or _____. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

This vision conveyed to Peter both reproof and instruction. It revealed to him the purpose of God, that by the death of Christ the Gentiles should be made fellow heirs with the Jews to the blessings of salvation. As yet none of the disciples had preached the gospel to the Gentiles. In their minds the middle wall of partition, broken down by the death of Christ, still existed, and their labors had been confined to the Jews, for they had looked upon the Gentiles as excluded from the blessings of the gospel. Now the Lord was seeking to teach Peter the world-wide extent of the divine plan.

How carefully the Lord worked to overcome the prejudice against the Gentiles that had been so firmly fixed in Peter's mind by his Jewish training! By the vision of the sheet and its contents He sought to divest the apostle's mind of this prejudice and to teach the important truth that in heaven there is no respect of persons.

16) Did Peter understand right away?

Acts 10:17-20 Now while Peter _____ in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the _____ which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and _____, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

17) Did Peter obey the Holy Spirit?

Acts 10:21 Then Peter _____ to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

To Peter this was a trying command, and it was with reluctance at every step that he undertook the duty laid upon him; but he dared not disobey. In obedience to the directions just received from God, the apostle promised to go with them. On the following morning, he set out for Caesarea, accompanied by six of his brethren. These were to be witnesses of all that he should say or do while visiting the Gentiles, for Peter knew that he would be called to account for so direct a violation of the Jewish teachings.

18) How was Peter greeted by Cornelius?

Acts 10:25-26 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his _____, and worshipped him. But Peter took him up, saying, _____; I myself also am a man.

Cornelius did not salute him as an ordinary visitor, but as one honored of Heaven and sent to him by God. It is an Eastern custom to bow before a prince or other high dignitary and for children to bow before their parents; but Cornelius, overwhelmed with reverence for the one sent by God to teach him, fell at the apostle's feet and worshiped him. Peter was horror-stricken, and he lifted the centurion.



19) How did Peter ask why he was called?

Acts 10:28-29 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an _____ thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or _____. Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me?

20) What did Cornelius ask of Peter?

Acts 10:33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to _____ all things that are commanded thee of God.

21) Was Peter pleased with his question?

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no _____ of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Then to that company of attentive hearers the apostle preached Christ: His life, His miracles, His betrayal and crucifixion, His resurrection and ascension, and His work in heaven as man's representative and advocate. As Peter pointed those present to Jesus as the sinner's only hope, he himself understood more fully the meaning of the vision he had seen, and his heart glowed with the spirit of the truth that he was presenting.

22) What interrupted all this?

Acts 10:44-45 While Peter yet spake these words, the _____ fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were _____, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

23) What was done for Cornelius and those present?

Acts 10:47-48 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be _____, which have received the _____ as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...

Today God is seeking for souls among the high as well as the lowly. There are many like Cornelius, men whom the Lord desires to connect with His work in the world. Their sympathies are with the Lord's people, but the ties that bind them to the world hold them firmly. It requires moral courage for them to take their position for Christ. Special efforts should be made for these souls, who are in so great danger, because of their responsibilities and associations.

There are in our world many who are nearer the kingdom of God than we suppose. In this dark world of sin, the Lord has many precious jewels, to whom He will guide His messengers. Everywhere there are those who will take their stand for Christ. Many will prize the wisdom of God above any earthly advantage and will become faithful light bearers. Constrained by the love of Christ, they will constrain others to come to Him.

24) Word spreads fast, what did those in Jerusalem hear?

Acts 11:1-3 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea _____ that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision _____ with him, Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst _____ with them.

25) After explaining the events, what did he tell the council?

Acts 11:17-18 Forasmuch then as God gave _____ the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could _____? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Can you see that God doesn't love some more than others?

Do you want to be a part of God's Family?

When is the time to let go of prejudices?