



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 34 – Acts 10

People — Who is involved?

*Cornelius – a Roman centurion
Peter – the apostle who preaches to Cornelius
Household of Cornelius who join him in
becoming Christians*

Places — Where does it happen?

*Caesarea Maritima – where Cornelius was
stationed with Roman military.
Joppa – where Peter had been staying and
where he received his vision.*

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs 1 – Josephus describes how Herod built up Caesarea into an administrative and harbor city. The city was formerly known as Strato’s Tower but was renamed for the Roman emperor.*
- Vs 1 – A centurion commanded 100 men. There were six centurions in a Roman cohort of 600. Each cohort (regiment) was part of a legion which contained 6000 men. This was the “Italian cohort.”*
- Vs 2 – Polybius said centurions were to be men who were “good leaders, of steady and prudent mind.”*
- Vs 3 – The ninth hour was about 3:00 pm. That was a time for Jews (and Cornelius) to stop and pray.*
- Vs 5 – Joppa was approximately thirty miles south of Caesarea.*
- Vs 10 – At the least, some of what Peter saw in the sheet was unclean under Jewish standards. The student is encouraged to read Leviticus 11 (also Deut. 14:3-21) concerning unclean foods.*
- Vs 15 – God alone has the right to declare what is right or wrong, clean or unclean.*
- Vs 17 – Peter was still perplexed until he was given further insight. Including Gentiles would be a major adjustment to both the attitude and activity involved in his preaching.*
- Vs 19 – Peter’s three exposures to Divine insight: an angel (3); a heavenly voice (13-15); the Spirit (19).*
- Vs 25 – Only God is to be worshiped. Never man! Peter was not there to be honored himself.*
- Vs 28 – Peter now realizes the meaning of the vision. It was not about animals. It was about all mankind.*
- Vs 33 – Cornelius also realizes the purpose of his vision. God was speaking to him.*
- Vs 44 – This verifies the reception not only of Cornelius but all like him (Gentiles) who receive God’s word.*
- Vs 45 – Others had come with Peter (see also v. 23). They would be witnesses.*
- Vs 46 – The tongue speaking was like what happened on Pentecost (see 2:4; 11:15).*
- Vs 47 – Notice, the reception of the Holy Spirit here was before baptism, not subsequent to it (Acts 2:38).*
- Vs 48 – As in other cases, new believers were instructed to be baptized in the name of the Lord.*

Perspectives — What may I learn from this chapter?

- 1. Even persons of fine character, need to hear the gospel and obey it to be saved.*
- 2. All men are in need of the gospel and are accepted upon fearing God and working righteousness.*
- 3. The gospel message to the Gentiles was the same message preached to the Jews.*