

Peter Breaks the Rules

Session Eight

Before Peter fades from the scene, Luke accounts how Peter transformed the lives of three people: a bed-ridden paralytic (Aeneas), a dead woman (Tabitha) and a Roman centurion (Cornelius).

Acts 9:32-43

Which group of people did Peter visit in Lydda?

Note the simple wisdom of these words spoken to Aeneas: “Jesus Christ heals you.” Not: “I can heal you if...” “You can heal yourself. Try real hard!”

Geography: Joppa (modern city is Jaffa, a suburb of Tel Aviv) is the closest seaport to Jerusalem.

Why do you think Peter sent all the people out of the room (v. 40)? What else does he do?

Review Mark 5:37-43, Luke 7:11-17, John 11:1-44. Was Peter present at all three resurrections? How does the Acts 10 account authenticate Peter as a true apostle?

“If Peter spoke Aramaic on this occasion, only a single letter would have been different, for Jesus had said ‘*Talitha koum!*’, whereas Peter would have said ‘*Tabitha koum!*’” (p. 183).

Look at the emphasis or even the medical confirmation of the woman’s dead state. She is DOA. This is an important fact to any observer, but especially Dr. Luke!

Why is it significant that Peter stayed with *a tanner* named Simon in Joppa (v. 43)?

- a) Simon was offering a tanning special
- b) Peter liked meeting someone with his old name
- c) they could now play “Simon Says” and mean it
- d) a tanner was someone who was considered unclean since he worked with dead animals

A tanner was required to build his home _____ feet outside the city.

Acts 10:1-8

“The principal subject of this chapter is not so much the conversion of Cornelius as the conversion of Peter” (p. 186). Why does Stott assert this? What did Peter need to overcome?

Simon Peter is in the same Joppa that centuries ago, the prophet Jonah boarded a ship in order to flee from God who wanted him to preach to the Assyrians.

Cornelius is a commander of at least 100 men (or 1/6 of a regiment). Describe Cornelius' character.

What time is it? The third hour afternoon (3 pm) was a Jewish hour of prayer and evening incense.

Acts 10:9-23

The sheet unfold and folds three times to get the point across...Perhaps similar to Jesus asking Peter thrice, "Do you love me?" (John 21:15-19)

"We note how perfectly God dovetailed his working in Cornelius and in Peter. For while Peter was praying and seeing his vision, the men from Cornelius were approaching the city; while Peter was perplexed about the meaning of what he had seen, they arrived at his house; while Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit told him that the men were looking for him and he must not hesitate to go with them; and when Peter went down and introduced himself to them, he explained to him the purpose of their visit" (p. 188). Like Peter, we can be very confused and slow to learn only to soon realize how God explains Himself by involving other people!

Acts 10:23b-48

T/F It was acceptable for a Jew to enter a Gentiles' home as long as he didn't touch anything or anyone.

T/F If the shadow of a Gentile fell on a Jew, that Jew would be required to go to the temple and purify himself.

"Peter refused both to be treated by Cornelius as if he were a god, and to treat Cornelius as if he were a dog" (p. 189).

More great baptism questions given in 10:47 and 11:17! It's similar to what the Ethiopian asks: "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" (Acts 8:36)

Acts 11:1-18

"This was the Gentile Pentecost in Caesarea [akin] to the Jewish Pentecost in Jerusalem" (p. 196). F.F. Bruce's take on v. 18: "Their criticism ceased; their worship began." Wise words for us!