



APOSTLES

OF THE APOSTLES

PETER'S MINISTRY OF MIRACLES

Last week we saw the first two . . .

1. A GREAT MIRACLE: Healing the body
ACTS 9:32-35
2. A GREATER MIRACLE: Raising the dead
ACTS 9:36-43

Today . . .

3. THE GREATEST MIRACLE: Salvation in the life of Cornelius **ACTS 10**

THE MINISTRY OF PETER – PART 1

CORNELIUS **ACTS 10:1-48**

THE GREATEST MIRACLE IN THE WORLD IS WINNING LOST SINNERS TO THE SAVIOR.

CHAPTER 10 is pivotal in the Book of Acts, for it records the salvation of the Gentiles, the beginning of the Gentile Church.

- We see Peter using “*the keys of the kingdom*” that Jesus had given him in **MATTHEW 16:18-19**.

I. WE SEE PURPOSEFUL PREPARATION v. 1-22

Everything God does or allows, He does so with purpose.

- Before He could save the Gentiles, God had to prepare Peter to bring the message, and Cornelius to hear the message.

GOD CALLS A HEAVENLY VISITOR WHO AROUSED CORNELIUS. ACTS 10:1-8

- In Cornelius, God saw the beginning of the flow of the great Gentile tide into the kingdom of God.
MATT. 8:11; LUKE 7:2





THREE KEY THINGS ABOUT CORNELIUS

The Holy Spirit underlines three things about Cornelius.

1. He mentions his faith: He was *“a devout man, and one that feared God.”*
2. He mentions also his family: He *“feared God with all his house.”*
3. Then, too, the Holy Spirit mentions his fervor: He *“gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always.”*

The difference between Cornelius and many religious people today is this: he knew that his religious devotion was not sufficient to save him.

CORNELIUS THE SEEKER

In his prayers, Cornelius was asking God to show him the way of salvation. **ACTS 11:13-14**

- In many respects, John Wesley was like Cornelius.
- Notice who does what: ***GOD SEEKS OUT THE LOST***— He loves the lost. He does not hate sinners; He loves sinners and hunts them down!
- God not only works at the ***RIGHT TIME***, but He also works through the ***RIGHT SERVANT***; and both are essential. God equips those whom He calls!

WHAT'S WITH THE FOOD THING?

Why did God use a vision about food to teach Peter that the Gentiles were not unclean?

1. For one thing, Peter was hungry, and a vision about food would certainly “speak to his condition,” as the Quakers say.
2. Second, the distinction between “*clean and unclean foods*” was a major problem between the Jews and the Gentiles in that day.
3. God was not simply changing Peter’s diet, He was changing his entire program!

II. WHY-MARVELOUS EXPLANATIONS v. 23-33

The fact that Peter allowed the Gentiles to lodge with him is another indication that the walls were coming down.

- Peter selected six Jewish believers to go along (**ACTS 11**) as witnesses—three times the official number needed.
- For centuries, the Jews, on the basis of Old Testament law, had declared the Gentiles to be unclean, and some Jews even referred to the Gentiles as “*dogs*.”

SOME IMPORTANT TRUTHS

- First, the idea that “one religion is as good as another” is completely false. **JOHN 14:6**
- Second, the seeking Savior (**LUKE 19:10**) will find the seeking sinner every time. **JER. 29:13**
- Third, Peter was privileged to minister to an already hungry congregation. **ACTS 10:33**

***GOD SET UP THIS WHOLE SITUATION
FOR MAXIMUM EFFECT***

III. THE POWERFUL PROCLAMATION v. 34-43

There can be no faith apart from the Word (**ROM. 10:17**), and Peter preached that Word.

- When it comes to sin and salvation, “*there is no difference.*” **ROM. 2:11, 3:22-23, 10:1-13**
- To “*fear God and work righteousness*” is a description of the Christian life . . . after salvation, not before.
- Peter made it clear that Israel was God’s instrument for accomplishing His work (**ACTS 10:36**), but that Jesus is “*Lord of all*” and not just Lord of Israel.

IV. DIVINE INTERRUPTIONS v. 44-48

The Holy Spirit interrupted Peter, he never finished his sermon!

- The Holy Spirit was giving witness to the six Jews who were present that these Gentiles were truly born again.
- The experience of Cornelius and his household makes it very clear that baptism is not essential for salvation.
- They were baptized because they were already saved.

***THE GREATEST MIRACLE: FIND A CORNELIUS
AND TELL HIM ABOUT JESUS!***