

Acts 9:32-10:32  
The Spirit Sends Peter to the Gentiles

- I. The Spirit sent Peter to Aeneas.
  - A. Aeneas was a probably a Gentile; his name was Greek.
    1. He had been bedridden for eight years.
    2. He was probably paralyzed from a stroke; word means weak on one side.
  - B. Peter made it clear who was doing the healing.
    1. Verse 34 –“**Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you...**”
    2. Peter did not take credit for the work of healing.
  - C. The purpose of the healing was the salvation of others.
    1. Verse 35 – The people of Lydda and Sharon saw the healed man.
    2. They turned to the Lord.
- II. The Spirit sent Peter to heal Dorcas.
  - A. She was a disciple (verse 36)
    1. She was from a Gentile background; her name is Greek.
    2. She was known by a Hebrew name – Tabitha.
    3. She practiced her belief (verse 36)
  - B. The purpose of her resurrection was the salvation of others.
    1. Verse 42 – “**And it became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.**”
    2. She was the first to be raised from the dead by any of the Apostles.
- III. The Spirit sent Peter to Cornelius.
  - A. Cornelius was a Gentile believer; a God-fearer.
    1. His name is Latin and probably Roman.
    2. He was a devout man with all his house (verse 2).
    3. He prayed to God continually.
    4. He gave many alms to the *Jewish* people.
    5. He was a Centurion of the Italian Cohort.
      - a) Centurion was a commander of 100 troops.
      - b) Italian Legion is mentioned on a marble slab in Rome.
      - c) They were in Judea in 69 AD.
  - B. Peter was staying in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.
    1. Tanners were considered unclean, since they handled dead bodies.
    2. Peter was given a vision by God. (expand on the vision)
      - a) Peter was proud of the fact he had never broken the dietary laws.
      - b) In doing so, he disobeyed God.
      - c) Jesus had declared all foods clean, Mark 7:19 and Matthew 15:11, yet Peter was still maintaining the Jewish dietary laws.
  - C. The purpose of Peter’s visit was the salvation of others.
    1. Peter was sent to preach the Gospel.
    2. He was sent from Joppa.
      - a) Joppa was about 30 miles south of Caesarea and 45 miles northwest of Jerusalem.
      - b) A. Clarke: “...*from Joppa, Jonah was sent to preach to the Gentiles at Nineveh, and from that same place Peter was sent to preach to the Gentiles at Caesarea.*”
- IV. God sends you to heal and preach to the “Gentiles.”
  - A. Salvation is healing and resurrection.
    1. Salvation heals our most basic sickness, the paralysis of sin.
    2. Salvation resurrects us from the death of being under God’s curse to the blessing of standing whole before Him eternally.

- B. The Spirit commanded Peter to go and to preach to those who are unholy and common (Gentiles).
- C. Jesus commands us to go unto all the nations; making disciples, baptizing, and teaching them (Matthew 28:19-20).
  - 1. You, like Peter are commanded to get out of your comfort zones and reach out to those who are not like you.
  - 2. Verse 28: Peter says to Cornelius and those who were assembled in his house, **“You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.”**
  - 3. Therefore, you should not call any man unholy or unclean.
  - 4. All should have the gospel preached to them.
  - 5. C.S. Lewis quote from *“The Weight of Glory”*.