



A just weight  
and balance

are the  
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Acts 10

is one of the

most important chapters

in the entire Book of Acts,

- For it records  
the opening of  
the door of faith

to the Gentiles.

- Peter had used **“the keys of the kingdom”**
- To open the door of faith **to the Jews**  
(**Acts 2:1-47**)
- **And the Samaritans**  
(**Acts 8:14**),
  - And now would **complete his special ministry**  
by opening the door **to the Gentile**

- At first glance,  
it might appear strange  
that such a man as Cornelius  
should *need* conversion.
- There are many men  
who flatter themselves  
with their prospects  
for eternity  
by their good works.

- They are honest in their business,
- Good husbands and fathers,
- Generous to their neighbors,
  - Benevolent to the poor;
  - What have they to fear at the hands of a just and merciful God?

- They forget that their obligations to God are infinitely higher than those to men,
  - It is the most inexcusable of all sins to persistently refuse him the worship which is his due.

➤ This offense takes the hue of the blackest ingratitude, when we remember the blood which has been shed.

to open up to us the way of pardon and eternal life.

➤ Of this crime  
every man is guilty  
who does not worship  
the living God,  
and submit to the  
ordinances  
of Jesus Christ.

- But Cornelius was a praying man,
  - A devout worshiper of God,
- Possessing every virtue claimed by self-righteous sinners.

➤ Yet it was necessary  
for even him to hear.

➤ Hear what?

➤ “words by which  
he might be saved.”

(Acts 11:14)

- As we continue our study of Cornelius in Acts 10 we notice that:
  - He “feared” God.
  - Not a superstitious dread.
    - But a brave man’s dread of failing to do the will of God.
      - **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**  
(**Mark 9:24**)

- The Gentile world had grown sick at heart.  
(Romans 1)

- The “middle wall of partition” was falling to the ground.  
(Ephesians 2:14)

- **Cornelius** was to learn that the Cross was the center of an **ever widening circle,**
- And **Peter** was to learn that that circle was as **big as the world.**

- The Divine direction is very exact.
- Both Phillip and Peter's names may have been given to Cornelius.
- Philip, a resident of Caesarea, might have been called to his side within an hour.
- But Philip was not the man for the occasion.

- Of all men

**Peter was best fitted**

to preach Jesus to Cornelius,

- Of all men

**the one most needing**

the results of his preaching.

- And **what** is he to tell Cornelius?

- **“He will tell you what you must do.”**

- These words emphasize

**two important truths:**

- # 1 They point to the value of human agency in the salvation of men.

- The great commission was given to men, not angels.

(**Matthew 28:19-20**)

- **# 2** They point to Jesus **as the complete revelation of God.**
- When He can be found **all else is insufficient.**
  - And it was because He could be found **that Cornelius could not be, allowed to remain where he was.**

- Clearly, being religious alone isn't what saves you
- It is the blood of Christ that saves!  
And not good deeds alone.
  - Ephesians 1:7 (KJV)  
In whom we have redemption through his blood,
    - the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

- In the mean time  
**Peter is found praying.**

- Is the man  
on the house top **ready?**

- A great thing was  
**about to happen.**

- A huge prejudice  
had come  
**to its death.**

- Peter  
had been taught,  
had fallen,  
had been forgiven  
and restored.
- Yet he was not ready  
for a worldwide need.

- Oh, how we allow our prejudices to blind us.

- But, Peter's eyes are soon to be opened.

- It required surgery from the **Great Physician.**

- **New attitudes**  
are a must.

- Old attitudes must **give way to the new.**

- **New truths**  
must give way  
to the old.

- It is Peter who must undergo surgery.
- But, he is not a willing patient.
- Sadly, there are many who are still not ready.

- Jesus Christ is the **“light of the world”**.  
(**John 9:5**)

- How many times had Peter **heard Jesus say that?**
- Yet, it **never struck home** until now.
- Jesus has **come to illuminate** the world.
  - The **pagan** is to be released from total darkness.
  - The **Jew** to receive total illumination.

- Cornelius and Peter,  
Jew and Gentile,  
both had visions  
granted by God.

- As God is

“no respecter of persons”.

- So both men  
are to find the truth.

- We all need  
to progress religiously.
- But, not beyond Christ,
- Let no one ever say  
they have no more  
to learn about the Son of God.
- 2 Peter 3:18 (GNB)

**But continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, now and forever! Amen.**

- As we find Peter on the housetop praying,
- He became hungry and desired something to eat; but while they were preparing it,
- He fell into a trance and saw the heaven opened,
- And something descending, like a great sheet.

- In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air.
  - And there came a voice to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."  
(**Acts 10:13**)

- But Peter said,  
"No, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."
- And the voice came to him  
a second time,
- "What God has cleansed, you must not call common."
  - This happened  
three times,  
(Acts 10:9-16 RSV)

- What a strange experience!
  - Why did this happen to Peter?
  - God wanted to heal Peter of:
    - of prejudice,
    - of bigotry.

- Here is an **inspired apostle** filled with the Holy Spirit.
- And yet, he is filled with **prejudice**.
- **What** is it in our lives that the Great Physician needs to heal?

- The Old Testament tells us that **God has separated the Jews** from the rest of mankind.
  - He did **not** choose them because they were smarter or superior to anyone else.  
(**Deuteronomy 7:7-8**)

- He chose them because they were to be the pattern of God's relationship to every people.
- Only in that sense were they a chosen people.

- But the Jews **distorted** that calling of God.
- They began to believe that God had called them **because** they were already a superior people,
  - And that God was **their exclusive possession**,
  - As well as that they were the exclusive **possession of God**

- This whole idea had been accepted by the Jews as divinely approved.
- And so Peter grew up with the attitude that God did not like Gentiles.

- Gentiles were a sort of animal, not quite human.
  - They were not to be spoken to or invited into your home.
    - If he even touched one accidentally he would go home and wash.
    - This bigotry was deep in the apostle's heart.

- So God sends a vision.
- A sheet full of animals which Peter had been taught were unclean.
- But God's command is, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."
- Peter begins at once to argue with the Lord.

- Let's analyze Peter's answer.
  - If you say "Lord"
  - Then you must not say, "Not so."
    - And if you say "Not so"
    - Then he is NOT Lord.
    - Yet many continually argue with God and telling him that they know best.

- The kingdom of light is about to be entered.
- Note the difference between Peter and Cornelius.
  - Peter argued,
  - Cornelius didn't.
- The time had come for action.
  - The order to Cornelius is, "Now send."

- Peter did not go to the Gentiles because he was obeying the Great Commission
  - But because the Spirit commanded him to go.
- In fact, when he arrived at Cornelius' house, he asked,  
“For what reason have you sent for me?”  
(Acts 10:29)

- And as he began to preach God interrupted him in order to accomplish His purpose.  
(**Acts 10:44; Act 11:15-16**)
  - And what might that purpose be?
    - “Baptism”  
(**Acts 10:47**)
  - Why does “Baptism,” keep popping up?
    - Surely, there must have been other topics under discussion.

- Peter did not say that all who “do good” are saved.
- He did not say that those who know about Jesus will be saved.
  - For Peter states in Acts 10:37-38 that Cornelius already knew a good bit about Jesus and his ministry.

- Acts 10:37  
You know

what happened throughout Judea. Everything began in Galilee after John spread the news about baptism.

- 10:38 You know

that God anointed Jesus from Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.

- Sounds to me that Peter has made a trip for nothing.
- Cornelius knows all he needs to know.
- He's a believer.
- He doing good deeds.
  - He's saved!
  - Go home Peter.

- But, he has made no confession of faith like the Ethiopian Eunuch.
- He has not repented,
- So what is missing?

- Oh! How about that baptism stuff.
- Surely that's not an issue, is it?
  - Did the Holy Spirit get it wrong?
  - Evidently if “Believing” is all one needs.

- Why did the Angel not save them earlier?
  - Maybe the Holy Spirit and the Angels are having a competition.
  - Or maybe there is another step to salvation.

- Then answered Peter,
  - Sounds like Peter hasn't finished his sermon.

- Act 10:47

Can any man forbid water,  
that these should not be baptized,  
which have received  
the Holy Ghost as well as we?

- Surely Cornelius could have objected to being baptized seeing he is already a believer.
- Why go to all that trouble?

- But, wait a minute, didn't the angel tell Cornelius that Peter would tell him something important?
  - What was that something?
    - Let's listen to the words of Cornelius to Peter:
      - Act 10:33

**Now therefore are we all here present  
before God,  
to hear all things  
that are commanded of God.**

- As Peter **finishes his sermon:**

- **Acts 10:48**

**And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.**

- **Cornelius may not have**  
understand everything  
God commanded.
  - Our **duty** is  
not to understand everything  
**but to obey.**
  - That is what **both**  
Peter and Cornelius **learned.**
  - Are we willing to  
**follow their example?**

**The doors of the church  
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride  
Say  
“Come”.**

**Revelation 22:17**



