

How Much Did They Know? Analyzing the response to the gospel in Acts 10

Something to think about before we begin:

With the gospel reaching Cornelius' household, the message of the cross was finally reaching the Gentile world. Even though Cornelius was a "devout man who feared God with all his household", why was it so important that he should "send for Peter"? [cp Acts 10:8, 22, 33; see also 11:13-14]

Acts 10:1-8

While Cornelius was praying, who came to inform him that God was indeed hearing his prayers, and that it was imperative that he should send messengers to call for Peter? [Acts 10:3, 7]

- As we consider this text and others in the book of Acts (specifically Acts 8:26, for example), what can we rightly conclude about the role of angels in "preaching the gospel" to men? How should this motivate us to greater diligence in "getting the word out"?

From this text, can we rightly conclude that being "devout" enough is sufficient for salvation?

Acts 10:9-23

Clearly, Peter needed some "coaxing" from God before he would be willing to take the gospel into the home of a Gentile. Though we are not likely to experience visions in the way that Peter did, in what ways does this account of Cornelius' conversion serve to "coax" us out of our comfort zone so that we might take the gospel to those we wouldn't normally associate with?

What was **the reason** the messengers gave for Cornelius' having sent for Peter? [Acts 10:22; cp 1 Peter 4:11!]

Acts 10:24-33

What had Cornelius done in preparation for Peter's arrival? [Acts 10:24] Do you think Peter might have been "shocked" to see such interest on their part? Do you think we misjudge the real interest of those we have contact and opportunity with?

What did Cornelius say was **the reason** that he had gathered everyone together? [Acts 10:33]

Acts 10:34-48

What did Peter say he understood to be true of God? [Acts 10:34-35]

- What importance, then, does the gospel play in helping people understand how to “do what is right and acceptable to Him”? [Acts 10:36-43]

Lists the simple **facts** Peter revealed about Jesus in the following verses as he preached:

- Acts 10:36:

- Acts 10:38:

- Acts 10:39:

- Acts 10:40:

- Acts 10:41-42:

- Acts 10:43:

How much of the doctrine of the church and of the New Testament did Cornelius and his household know when the Spirit of God “fell on” them? [Acts 10:44]

Seeing the manifestation of God’s Spirit on these Gentiles, what did Peter command to be done? [Acts 10:47-48; cp 11:15-18]

What did Cornelius and the others then request of Peter? [Acts 10:48; cp 2:42-47; 16:15; et al]

Based on what we see in **Acts 10:34-48**, what are the only things we can know *for certain* that Cornelius and his friends knew, which led them to believe the gospel and be baptized?

May the Lord help us LOVE ALL OUR NEIGHBORS for His sake, taking them THE TRUTH!!