

LIFE OF
PETER

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FALL 2020

Course Goals

- To understand the scope and source of Peter's character transformation
- To imitate Peter's growth in Christ-like character
- To prepare to defend a scriptural view of Peter's role and authority in the early church

Schedule of Lessons

Date	Lesson
Sunday, Sept 20	1 – Meeting the Master
Wednesday, Sept 23	2 – A Weekend with Jesus
Sunday, Sept 27	3 – Peter Among the Apostles
Wednesday, Sept 30	4 – Who Jesus Is and What He Came to Do
Sunday, Oct 4	5 – Peter at the Transfiguration
Wednesday, Oct 7	6 – The Last Supper and Crucifixion
Sunday, Oct 11	7 – Begotten Again by the Resurrection
Wednesday, Oct 14	8 – Using the Keys to the Kingdom
Sunday, Oct 18	9 – Confronting the Jewish Leadership
Wednesday, Oct 21	10 – Preaching in Judea and Samaria
Sunday, Oct 25	11 – Preaching to Gentiles
Wednesday, Oct 28	12 – Peter's Sufferings
Sunday, Nov 1	13 – Peter on Suffering and False Teaching

Lesson 1
Meeting the Master

Objectives

- Explain how Peter met Jesus and found out who He was
- Name at least 3 events in Jesus' early public ministry that Peter witnessed
- List at least 3 of Peter's relatives mentioned or named in the Gospels

Text Questions

1. Find the following biographical details about Peter from the New Testament:
 - a. Birth name:
 - b. Known family members:
 - c. Hometown:
 - d. Occupation:
 - e. Known friends and/or business associates:
 - f. Attitude and obedience to the Old Law:

2. Meeting Jesus in Bethany beyond Jordan (Bethabara), **John 1:29-51**
 - a. How did John the Baptist designate Jesus to his two disciples?
 - b. One of the two is named:_____. Who likely was the other?
 - c. Whom did Andrew go and find? What does this suggest about his connection with John the Baptist?
 - d. What did Andrew say about Jesus?
 - e. What new Aramaic name did Jesus give to Simon? In Greek? What is the meaning of the name?
 - f. What did Jesus decide to do the next day?
 - g. What other men did Jesus contact before leaving Jordan? Where were they from?

3. Wedding Feast at Cana in Galilee, **John 2:1-11**
 - a. How many days passed between their departure from Bethany and the wedding feast? Try to determine how far they travelled.
 - b. Who were with Jesus at the wedding feast?
 - c. How did Jesus solve the problem of insufficient wine at the feast?
 - d. What was the reaction of the disciples?

4. Other Early Experiences, **John 2:12-4:54**

- a. Where did Jesus, His family, and His disciples go for a few days?

- b. Scan **John 2:13-4:42** and list experiences the disciples had with Jesus on His journey to Jerusalem.
 - i. John 2:13-22 (especially vs. 17)
 - ii. John 2:23
 - iii. John 3:1-21
 - iv. John 3:22
 - v. John 4:1-3
 - vi. John 4:4-41

Additional Notes

When everyone returned to Galilee, the early disciples seem to have gone back to their usual lives. There is no indication that the disciples were with Jesus when He:

- Returned to Cana and healed the Nobleman's son (**John 4:46-54**)
- Visited Nazareth and was rejected in the synagogue (**Luke 4:16-30**)

Thought Questions

1. What are some reasons Peter might have been so ready to believe in and follow Jesus as the Messiah? What are some conclusions we can draw about Peter's family background and personal faith from these actions?

2. What other Bible figures are renamed by God? What comparisons can you draw from their stories to the future life of Peter?

3. How can reconstructing the life and personality of Peter help us in our spiritual growth? Related to that, what do you hope to gain from this study?

Lesson 2
A Weekend with Jesus

Objectives

- List at least one event for each day of the weekend recorded in Luke 5 and Mark 1
- Name 3 men who fell on their faces in response to a revelation of divine glory
- Explain how the weekend described in Luke 5 and Mark 1 would have prepared the apostles for their eventual work in the kingdom

Text Questions

1. Friday Morning by the Sea, **Luke 5:1-11**

- a. Where was Peter fishing? Find other names for this body of water.
- b. What was its size?
- c. How did Jesus use Simon's boat?
- d. What reasons could Peter have given for not launching out to fish again?
- e. How did Peter react to the great catch of fish?
- f. What did Jesus say Peter would do from that point on?
- g. What advantage would there be to Peter in the change? What disadvantages?

5. Saturday (Sabbath) Morning, **Mark 1:21-31**

- a. Where did Jesus go on Sabbath? What did He do there?
- b. How was the service interrupted?
- c. How did Jesus restore order?
- d. What question did the people ask when they saw the power of Jesus over unclean spirits?
- e. With whom did Jesus go home for lunch after the synagogue service?
- f. What problem did they find there?
- g. How did Jesus solve this problem?

6. Saturday Evening, **Mark 1:32-34**

- a. Who came to Jesus after sunset?

- b. Why did they wait until after sunset to gather?
 - c. How many gathered before Peter's door?
 - d. What did Jesus do for them?
7. Early Sunday Morning, **Mark 1:35-39**
- a. When did Jesus arise from His night's rest?
 - b. Where did He go and why?
 - c. Who found Him?
 - d. What did they want Jesus to do?
 - e. What did Jesus insist that He must do?

Thought Questions

1. List some other men who reacted as Peter did to a glimpse of divine perfection. How do the things those men saw compare in glory and grandeur to what Peter saw? How do you explain Peter's reaction?
2. Think of at least one other time when a large crowd gathered to where Peter was. How might the experience in **Mark 1:32-39** have prepared Peter for these later occasions?
3. Why do you think Peter was so anxious for Jesus to come back to Bethsaida? Given Jesus' answer to their urging, what misunderstanding about the Messiah and his kingdom may be informing Peter's actions?
4. What lessons or applications should we draw from this record of a complete weekend in the life of Jesus and His disciples? Think about both the individual events, and the weekend as a whole.

Lesson 3
Peter Among the Apostles

Objectives

- Name the 12 apostles and the 3 who comprised the “inner circle”
- Describe the commission the 12 were given in Luke 9

Text Questions

1. The Twelve Apostles Selected, **Luke 6:12-16**
 - a. What did Jesus do before He chose the twelve?
 - b. What did He call them? What does this word mean?
 - c. Whose name is first? Find other listings and see if this is always true.
 - d. Whose name is last?
 - e. Scanning the remainder of the chapter, tell what Jesus did after selecting these men.

2. Peter Among the Privileged Three, **Luke 8:40-42, 49-56**
 - a. How old was the daughter of Jairus? What was her condition when her father came to Jesus seeking help?
 - b. What message came before Jesus and His disciples reached the house?
 - c. What did Jesus promise Jairus?
 - d. Whom did Jesus permit in the house with Him?
 - e. What did the mourners affirm about the girl? What did Jesus say?
 - f. What did Peter see Jesus do for her?

3. Peter Commissioned with the Twelve, **Luke 9:1-6**
 - a. What power and authority did Jesus give the twelve?
 - b. What did He send them out to do?
 - c. What were they told to take to meet their personal needs?
 - d. How would those needs be met?
 - e. What were they to do if rejected by any village?

 - f. From **Matthew 10:5-6**, to whom were they to go?

Lesson 4

Who Jesus Is and What He Came to Do**Objectives**

- Explain what the “keys to the kingdom” are and how Peter used them
- List at least 2 instances from Acts where Peter exercised special God-given authority in the early church

Introductory Notes

Jesus reached the peak of His popularity as He offered bread to the multitude of 5,000. The decline in His popularity began the next day as He offered Himself to them as the bread of life.

Text Questions

1. In Capernaum, **John 6:60-71**
 - a. What did many of Jesus' disciples say about His claim to be the bread of life?
 - b. What did Jesus say was spirit and life for them?
 - c. What did Jesus know from the beginning about His disciples?
 - d. What did many of His disciples do (v.66)?
 - e. What question did Jesus ask the twelve?
 - k. Give Peter's reply in full.

2. In Caesarea Philippi, **Matthew 16:13-20**
 - a. What question did Jesus ask His disciples?
 - b. What were some popular opinions? Give some reasons for each.

 - c. Who acted as spokesman for the disciples in giving their opinion of Jesus?
 - d. What conviction did he express?

 - e. What was the source of this conviction?
 - f. What was the rock on which Jesus promised to build His church?
 - g. What did Jesus promise to give to Peter? What is the use of such items?
 - h. When did Peter use the keys in a unique way?

- i. What relation did Jesus say would exist between Peter's action on earth and action in heaven?
- j. Was Peter the only apostle to whom this promise was made (**Matthew 18:18**)?
- k. What were the apostles not to tell anyone?

3. Peter's Blunder, **Matthew 16:21-28**

- a. What did Jesus begin to reveal to the apostles?
- b. How did Peter respond?
- c. What did Jesus call Peter? What is the meaning of this name?
- d. What made Peter an offense to Jesus?
- e. Why do you think Peter reacted so negatively to the prediction of Jesus?
- f. How would the words of Jesus in vv.24-25 address themselves to Peter's mistake?
- g. According to v.28, when was the Son of Man to come in His kingdom (the kingdom to which Peter was given the keys)?

Thought Questions

1. How would you disprove to someone that Peter was the first Pope, or the first earthly head of the church? What evidence is found in Matthew 16?
2. If we conclude that Peter was not the first Pope, does that mean that Peter was not given and did not exercise a unique role and authority in the early church? Consider **Acts 1:15-16, 2:14, 5:1-11**. What do you think was Peter's role in the early church?
3. What earthly ideas or philosophies do we allow to interfere with our understanding of who Jesus is and what His kingdom is about?

Lesson 5
Peter at the Transfiguration

Objectives

- Name the prophecies and cultural expectations that colored the apostles' interpretation of the Transfiguration
- Explain why Jesus paid the Temple tax

Text Questions

1. The Transfiguration, **Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36**
 - a. According to Luke, for what purpose did Jesus go up into the mountain?
 - b. What circumstances may have made this especially needful for Him at this point?
 - c. Whom did Jesus take with Him?
 - d. What change took place in Jesus?
 - e. According to Luke, what were Peter and the other two doing when this change took place?
 - f. Who appeared in glory with Jesus?
 - g. What were they discussing with Jesus?
 - h. How had Peter reacted when Jesus attempted to discuss this with him and the other apostles?
 - i. What are some significant things about the two men who appeared in glory with Jesus that might account for their being chosen for this great honor?
 - j. What did Peter propose?
 - i. Why did he say this (**Mark 9:6; Luke 9:33**)?
 - k. What effect did this have on the conference between Jesus and His guests?
 - l. What did the voice from heaven say?
 - m. How did the disciples respond to the voice?
 - n. How did Jesus comfort them?
 - o. What instructions did Jesus give them concerning the vision?
 - p. What question did this event raise in the minds of the disciples?
 - i. What Old Testament scripture would lead them to ask this question?
 - q. How did Jesus answer the question?

- r. How does **Luke 1:17** help to explain Jesus' answer?
2. Peter's Later Reference to the Transfiguration, **2 Peter 1:16-19**
 - a. What does Peter deny about the nature of his reports concerning the power and coming of Christ?
 - b. What does he affirm in v.16?
 - c. From what source did the voice come?
 - d. Where did Peter say he heard the voice?
 - e. What is prophecy for us when we take heed to it?
 3. The Shekel in the Fish's Mouth, **Matthew 17:24-27**
 - a. Where did this event take place?
 - b. What question was Peter asked concerning Jesus?
 - c. According to **Exodus 30:11-16**, what was the purpose of this tax?
 - d. What question did Jesus ask Peter?
 - e. What application did this have to this situation?
 - f. Why did Jesus arrange for the tax to be paid anyway?
 - g. How was the tax paid? For whom was it paid?

Thought Questions

1. What are some ways that we, like Peter, James, and John, let cultural norms and expectations influence our understanding of God's instructions?
2. What lessons should we learn from the words spoken by the voice from Heaven during the Transfiguration? Consider also **2 Peter 1:16-19**.
3. What should Jesus' payment of the Temple tax teach us about our "rights"?

Lesson 6
The Last Supper and Trials

Objectives

- Identify at least 3 mistakes Peter makes during the last day of Jesus' life
- Find at least 3 passages in 1 Peter that demonstrate what Peter learned about suffering from his experiences on this day

Introductory Notes

A period of approximately 9 months separates the transfiguration from the crucifixion. After the transfiguration, Jesus and His disciples made a very deliberate journey toward Jerusalem, teaching and healing along the way. After the triumphal entry on Sunday before the last Passover, events moved rapidly toward the cross. The events of this lesson cover approximately 12 hours (6pm to 6am) of the night before.

Text Questions

1. Peter at the Last Supper, **John 13:1-11**
 - a. What had the devil already put into the heart of Judas?
 - b. What three things did Jesus know (vs. 3)?
 - c. What did Jesus do for His disciples?
 - d. What do you think was Peter's reason for refusing to allow Jesus to wash his feet?
 - e. How did Peter show his eagerness for a "part with" Jesus?

2. Peter's Commitment, **Mark 14:27-31**
 - a. What prophecy did Jesus quote?
 - b. What commitment did Peter make?
 - c. What did Jesus predict?
 - d. How did Peter react to these words of Jesus?

3. Peter in the Garden, **Mark 14:32-42**
 - a. What three apostles did Jesus take farthest with Him into the garden?
 - b. What did Jesus say to them?
 - c. What did He do when He had left them and gone a little farther?
 - d. When Jesus returned what did He find them doing?
 - e. Whom did Jesus especially address and what did He say to him?
 - f. Did His rebuke accomplish any change in their actions?

4. Peter and the Arrest, **John 18:2-12**

- a. What did the soldiers and officers have with them when they came to arrest Jesus?
- b. How did Jesus show His willingness to be arrested?
- c. How did Peter attempt to make good on his promise to go with Jesus even to death?
- d. What did Jesus say to Peter?

5. Peter in the High Priest's Courtyard, **Mark 14:33-54, 66-72**

- a. According to John 18:15-16, how did Peter get into the priest's house?
- b. With whom was Peter associating in the courtyard?
- c. What reasons can you give for Peter's denials?
- d. How did Peter reinforce his denial of Jesus?
- e. What caused Peter to realize what he was doing? What additional prompt does Luke record in **Luke 22:61**?
- f. How did Peter react when he realized what he had done?

Thought Questions

1. List some mistakes Peter makes during this 12-hour period. What motivates each of these actions? What should we learn from Peter's struggles to do the right thing?

2. Try to put yourself in Peter's place in **John 18:10-11**. How would you feel if Jesus rebuked you for doing what you thought to be the best and only thing to do? What lessons should we apply from this to our own decision-making processes?

Lesson 7

Begotten Again by the Resurrection**Objectives**

- Name 3 men who received personal visits from the risen Lord
- Describe the appearances of the risen Lord to Peter

Introductory Notes

The hours following Peter's denial must have been the most difficult of his life. Jesus was crucified and Peter must have been crushed by the thought that the last words Jesus heard him say were words of denial, even though he had boasted that he would go with Him to death. But in **1 Peter 1:2**, Peter tells of the change that the resurrection created: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Text Questions1. Resurrection Day, **John 20:1-10**

- What surprise did Mary find at the tomb?
- Whom did she go to tell? From **Mark 16:5-7**, tell why she did this.
- Contrast Peter and John in their approach to the tomb and their action on arrival.
- Where did the two go when they left the tomb?
- When the men on the road to Emmaus returned to the apostles in Luke 24:34, to whom had Jesus appeared?

2. By the Sea of Galilee, **John 21:1-23**

- What would account for the apostles' return to Galilee (**Mark 14:28** and **16:7**)?
- How many were together?
- What were the circumstances under which they saw Jesus?
- Who first recognized Jesus? What did Peter do?
- How certain were they of the identify of Jesus when they got to the shore and were near Him?
- What question did Jesus ask Peter?
- How many times was the question asked? How did Peter answer?

- h. What three things did Jesus tell Peter to do?
- i. What kind of death did Jesus predict for Peter?
- j. About whom did Peter ask? What was the reply of Jesus?

3. The Ascension, **Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-14**

- a. Over how long a period did Jesus show Himself alive to His apostles?
- b. From what place did He ascend?
- c. Where did He tell them to remain?
- d. What did Jesus promise the apostles within a few days?
- e. What did the two men in white apparel promise?
- f. Where did the apostles stay in Jerusalem?
- g. With whom did they continue in prayer and supplication?
- h. According to Luke, in what place were they continually praising and blessing God?
- i. Who led in selecting a successor for Judas (**Acts 1:15-26**)?

Thought Questions

1. Read **1 Corinthians 15:3-8**. Which three men received personal visits from the risen Lord? What are some reasons these three men might have been given such a wonderful privilege?
2. What similarities do you find between Jesus' commission to Peter in **John 21:15-17** and Peter's exhortation to elders in **1 Peter 5:2-3**? What qualities of leadership does Peter add, and where did he learn these qualities?
3. How does Jesus conclude Peter's recommissioning in **John 21:19**? What impact do you think those words would have had on Peter?

Lesson 8
Using the Keys to the Kingdom

Objectives

- List the four main points of Peter's sermon in Acts 2 and his proofs for each
- Explain what the keys of the kingdom are, and who used them

Text Questions

1. From **Matthew 16:13-20**, answer the following review questions:
 - a. Upon what rock was the church to be built?
 - b. Who was to build it? Whose was it to be?
 - c. Who was to have the keys to open it?
 - d. What was to be its form of government: democracy, republic or monarchy?
 - e. Who was to speak on earth what was spoken in heaven (see also **Matthew 18:18**)?
2. The church could not be built until three things were accomplished:
 - a. The truth of Jesus' Divine Sonship (the rock) was proved beyond doubt
 - b. The king was crowned
 - c. Christ's spokesmen were enabled to speak on earth what was spoken in heaven
 - i. How was this to be accomplished, **John 16:12-15**?
3. When was:
 - a. The truth of Jesus's Sonship proved, **Romans 1:4**?
 - b. Jesus crowned king, **Daniel 7:13,14**?
4. The Coming of the Spirit, **Acts 2:1-13**
 - a. Who are the "they" of v.1?
 - b. What accompanied the coming of the Spirit?
 - c. By what power did the apostles begin to speak, v.4?
 - d. What proves that the tongues in which they spoke were actual languages?
 - e. While most were amazed and marveled, what explanation did some offer?
5. Peter's Sermon, **Acts 2:14-36**
 - a. How did Peter disprove the proposed explanation of v.13?
 - b. How did Peter explain the phenomenon?
 - c. Having gained their attention, what four things did he say about Jesus (vv.22-24)?

- d. Which of these things did Peter need to prove?
 - e. What four pieces of evidence did he offer?
 - i. vv.25-31
 - ii. v.32
 - iii. v.33
 - iv. v.34
 - f. Where did Peter say Jesus had gone?
 - g. What conclusion did Peter draw (v.36)?
6. The Response, **Acts 2:37-47**
- a. What question was asked by those who believed Peter?
 - b. What was Peter's answer?
 - c. When they were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, what were they acknowledging?
 - d. Who added them together (vv.41,47)? Who was building the church?

Thought Questions

1. What action in Acts 1-2 do you think constitutes using the "keys of the kingdom"? What special privileges did using the keys confer upon the user?
2. Where do you think Peter learned all these Old Testament passages that demonstrate Jesus' divinity and messiahship? Is it simply the Holy Spirit speaking through him? What other factors might be involved?
3. When has Peter previously shown great boldness in defending Christ? What makes this occasion similar? What makes it different?

Lesson 9

Confronting the Jewish Leadership**Objectives**

- Describe the differences between the Apostles' first and second arraignments before the Sanhedrin
- Explain the significance of the Apostles' quotation of Psalm 2 in their prayer in Acts 4

Introductory Notes

Acts 2 found Peter preaching the first gospel sermon in Jerusalem leading to the beginning of the church. The church has apparently had several weeks—even months—of growth without persecution. The events of Acts 3 spark opposition from Jewish officials, especially Sadducees.

Text Questions

1. The Healing, **Acts 3:1-11**
 - a. What two apostles went to the temple together? Who led in the healing?
 - b. What verses show that:
 - i. The man's ailment was permanent?
 - ii. The man's ailment was paralyzing?
 - iii. The man was well-known? (See also **3:16**)
 - iv. The man had no "faith to be healed"?
 - v. The man's healing was instant?
 - vi. The man's healing was complete? (See also **3:16**)
 - c. What was the reaction of the people?
2. The Sermon, **Acts 3:11-26**
 - a. What verses in Peter's first sermon (Acts 2) are very similar to statements in vv.13-15?
 - b. What verse in Acts 2 is similar to **Acts 3:19**?
 - c. What prophets does Peter mention here who were not mentioned in Acts 2?
3. The Sequel, **Acts 4:1-22**
 - a. What sect led the persecution? Why (v.2)?
 - b. Did the arrest of Peter and John prevent converts?
 - c. Were Peter and John questioned, or charged with wrongdoing?
 - d. What charges did Peter make against the rulers?

- e. Why did the boldness of Peter and John surprise the council?
- f. Why did the council not deny the miracle?
- g. What did they do to prevent further spread of the gospel?
- h. What was Peter's response?
- i. When they returned to their brethren, for what did they pray (**4:29**)?
- j. What did they do (**4:31**)?

4. The Second Arraignment, **Acts 5:12-42**

- a. What prompted the second confrontation with the Jewish leadership, vv.12-18?
- b. Were the Apostles questioned, or charged with wrongdoing? What were they?
- c. Who replied? What did he say?
- d. What punishment did the apostles suffer?
- e. What effect did this punishment have on their preaching?

Thought Questions

1. Read **Psalm 2** alongside the apostles' prayer in **Acts 4:24-30**. What connections do you see between the apostles' requests in vv.27-30 and the parts of Psalm 2 that they did not explicitly quote?
2. How does Peter's statement in **Acts 5:29-32** compare with his sermons in chapters 2 and 3? What content is shared? What is different about this presentation? Why do you think it is different?

Lesson 10
Preaching in Judea and Samaria

Objectives

- Name the two people Peter miraculously healed in Acts 9
- List 2 similarities and 1 difference between Jesus raising Jairus' daughter and Peter raising Dorcas

Introductory Notes

The persecution which began with the arrest and beating of the apostles rapidly escalated, resulting in the scattering of the church. Rather than destroying the church, the persecution only led to its proliferation. Those who fled from the persecution "went everywhere preaching the word."

Text Questions

1. The Gospel in Samaria, **Acts 8:1-25**
 - a. What did the apostles do when the church was scattered?
 - b. Who was Philip?
 - c. What success did Philip have in Samaria?
 - d. What kind of influence were the Samaritans under before Philip came?
 - e. Why did the people forsake Simon and believe Philip?
 - f. What effect did this have on Simon?
 - g. When the apostles heard of events in Samaria, what did they do?
 - h. What two things did Peter and John do (vv.15,17)?
 - i. Why did Philip not do this?
 - f. What did Simon try to buy?
 - g. What was Simon's problem?
 - h. What two things did Peter say he must do?
 - j. What did Peter and John do as they returned to Jerusalem?
2. Peter's Visitor, **Galatians 1:15-19**
 - a. Acts 9 tells of the conversion of Saul, the persecutor, in Damascus. After some time in Arabia, Saul returned to Damascus and then made his way to Jerusalem.
 - b. Whom did Saul visit in Jerusalem? How long did he stay?
 - c. What Saul learn or receive from Peter (**Galatians 1:11-12**)?

3. Peter Evangelizing, **Acts 9:31-43**

- a. What accounts for the peace which descended on the church throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria?
- b. Where had Peter been when he came to Lydda?
- c. Whom did Peter heal in Lydda?
- d. Why was Peter called to Joppa? Learn what you can about Joppa.
- e. Describe Dorcas (Tabitha).
- f. What did Peter find when he arrived in Joppa?
- g. How did Peter proceed?
- h. What did Peter accomplish by God's power?
- i. Whom did he call to witness what was done?
- j. What was the result throughout all Joppa?
- k. Where did Peter abide?
- l. What was the man's occupation? Might this explain the location of his house?

Thought Questions

1. Why do you think the apostles chose Peter and John to go to the Samaritans?
2. How do you think the apostles' power to confer the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit relates to their commission to preach the gospel? Explain your answer.

Lesson 11

Preaching in Judea and Samaria**Objectives**

- Describe the similarities and differences between Peter's sermon in Acts 10 and his previous sermons
- Explain the significance of Cornelius being the first Gentile convert

Introductory Notes

All preaching of the gospel to this point had been done among Jews. Old Testament prophecy had foretold the conversion of the nations to the worship of God. Peter himself said concerning the promise of remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit that the promise was also to "all who are far off" (**Acts 2:39**). The prayers of a devout Gentile in Caesarea reminded God of His promise (**Acts 10:4**).

Text Questions1. Preliminary Events, **Acts 10:1-33**

- What did an angel tell Cornelius to do?
- What did Cornelius do in response?
- In Joppa, what was Peter doing about noon the next day?
- Why did Peter refuse to eat the animals in the vision?
- What did the voice from heaven tell him?
- Did Peter understand the vision immediately?
- What instructions did the Holy Spirit give Peter regarding the men who had come for him?
- Whom did Peter take with him to Caesarea?
- How did Cornelius greet Peter?
- What had Peter decided about the meaning of the vision?
- What question did Peter ask Cornelius?
- What was his answer (v.33)?

2. Conversion of the Gentiles, **Acts 10:34-48**

- What truth did Peter perceive (vv.34-35)?
- Did Cornelius know anything about Jesus before Peter came?
- How does Peter's message (vv.39-41) compare with his sermons in Acts 2, 3 and 5?
- What did Peter say was available for all who believe in Jesus?

- e. What happened as Peter was speaking?
 - f. How did they know what had happened?
 - g. Why were the Jews from Joppa astonished?
 - h. What did this prove to Peter according to v. 47?
3. The Sequel in Jerusalem, **Acts 11:1-18**
- a. What charge did the brethren make against Peter?
 - b. List at least four facts Peter reported in his defense.
 - c. According to the angel, by what was Cornelius to be saved (v.14)?
 - d. Why, then, did the Holy Spirit come on them?
4. Conclusion: The Conference in Jerusalem, **Acts 15:7-11**
- a. Acts 15 describes a conference discussing the position of the Gentiles in God's plan. Peter speaks in vv.7-11.
 - b. According to Peter's speech:
 - i. How did the Gentiles come to believe?
 - ii. By what were their hearts purified?
 - iii. What was accomplished by the baptism of the Spirit?

Thought Questions

1. Why do you think Peter was chosen to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles?
2. Why is it significant that Cornelius was the first Gentile to obey the Gospel? What additional impact would his race, occupation, and position have had on believers hearing about his conversion?
3. How does Peter's sermon in Acts 10 differ from his previous sermons? What is similar?