Lesson Ten: Peter Moves Out

Aeneas and Dorcas (read verses 9:32-43)

1) Compare Acts 9:32-43 to Luke 4:18-19, 38-39 and 8:40-42, 51-56. Why do you think it is important for us to know that Peter healed the sick and raised the dead (see John 14:12-14)?

The conversion of Cornelius (read verses 10:1 – 11:18)

- 2) What was the immediate lesson of Peter's trance vision in 10:9-16?
- 3) After the messengers from Cornelius came and reported the angelic appearance, what further application of the vision was apparent to Peter (see 10:23-29)?
- 4) When Peter observed Cornelius's manner and heard his account of the angel's message, what did Peter realize (10:34-35)?
- 5) Peter said that God is willing to accept all "who fear him and do what is right" (10:35). Does this mean that good deeds alone earned Cornelius his salvation? Why or why not?
- 6) Peter's speech to this Gentile household differed in several ways from what he said to Jewish audiences. What key points did he make in this instance (see 10:36-43)?
- 7) What unprecedented thing happened in the middle of Peter's speech (10:44-46)? What did it signify? Why were Peter's fellow Jewish believer's astonished?
- 8) What shocked the Jerusalem church most about the rumors from Caesarea was not that Peter had baptized Gentiles, but that he had done what (11:1-3)?
- 9) Consider Peter's account of the events (11:4-17). What was the significance of this whole episode (11:18), and why was it so important? (*Optional:* see Ephesians 2:11-22.)
- 10) Why did God need to use such extraordinary means as a trance and a vivid outpouring of the Spirit to get across His message to Peter?

Your Response: (consider doing one or more of these activities this week)

✓ In what ways is Cornelius a model for us? Specifically, how can you apply that model to your priorities and actions?

✓ Why is it important for you that God doesn't show favoritism? Do you believe the church ever acts as though it does favor certain ethnic, economic, social, or political groups?

✓ It may be hard to imagine a time when the idea of a Gentile Christian was astonishing. Still, what is the most important insight about God, the gospel, the church, or yourself that you have learned from today's reading?