

Power to Witness in Word and Deed

The Book of Acts

Acts 10:23b–48

Read Acts 10:23b–48.

1. Peter and six other circumcised Jewish believers (11:12) begin the two-day journey to Cornelius's house in Caesarea.
 - a. How has God reassured Peter that he should go? (vv. 19–22)
 - b. Why was such reassurance necessary? (v. 28a; Lev. 20:26)
2. Peter had been wondering and thinking about his vision when the men from Cornelius arrived.
 - a. How does he now explain the meaning of his vision? (v. 28)
 - b. How does the shift in Peter's understanding affect his actions? (vv. 23, 25–27, 29)
3. How can we tell that Cornelius feels honored by this visit from Peter? (vv. 24–25, 33a)
4. What are Cornelius and those with him expecting? (v. 33b)
5. Cornelius is already a devout man who fears God; why is it still necessary for God to send Peter to him? (Rom. 10:12–15, 17)
6. Since Peter's vision on the roof, his thinking has changed dramatically. What has Peter become convinced of? (vv. 34–35)
7. When Peter speaks to the Gentiles at Cornelius's house, he does two things: (a) he tells them what the God Cornelius fears has done to save them, and (b) he introduces them to Jesus of Nazareth, the one God has sent.
 - a. What has God done?
v. 36
 - b. What has God done?
v. 38a
 - c. What has God done?
v. 38c

v. 40

v. 41

v. 42b

b. What does he say about Jesus of Nazareth?

v. 36b

v. 38

v. 39

v. 40

v. 41b

v. 42a

v. 42b

v. 43a

v. 43b

c. How does this description of Jesus help you to see him more clearly than you have in the past?

8. What does Peter say is required for sins to be forgiven? (v. 43; 15:7–11)

9. We have seen God actively involved throughout this story of Peter and Cornelius.

a. How does God show his eagerness to welcome the Gentiles into His family? (v. 44)

b. Why are the circumcised Jewish believers astonished? (vv. 45–46, 47b)

c. What does Peter do in response to what has just happened? (v. 48)

10. Peter's understanding that God welcomes all and declares no one unclean changed his actions. Is there someone in your midst whom you tolerate, feel superior to, or even despise? In what ways do you sense God correcting how you see him/her and calling you to interact with him/her differently?