

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019

MORNING MESSAGE

“The Sermon from the Sheet”

Acts 10:1-23a

- I. THE PROSPECT (vv.1-8)
 - A. The prospect is a man named Cornelius
 1. He was a responsible man (v.1)
 - a. Cornelius was a Roman Centurion
 - b. “Centurion” gives us the English word “century, meaning 100
 2. He was a religious man (v.2)
 - a. “Devout” means he had turned away from the pagan gods of Rome
 - b. “Feared God” means he was drawn to the God of the Jews
 3. He was responsive man (vv.3-8)
 - a. He saw a vision at “the ninth hour”; the ninth hour is 3 p.m.
 - b. The angel told him to send for Peter in Joppa
 - B. Cornelius is an example of how a man can be religious, but lost
- II. THE PREACHER (vv.9-23a)
 - A. The preacher is a man named Peter
 1. He was a praying man (v.9)
 - a. He was praying at the “sixth hour”; the sixth hour is noon
 2. He was a perplexed man (vv.10-13)
 - a. “Trance” literally means “ecstasy”; a distraction of the mind; a heavenly vision
 - b. He saw a sheet descending from heaven that was filled with animals and was told, “Rise, Peter; kill, and eat”
 3. He was a prejudiced man (vv.14-16)
 - a. Peter balked at the command and said, “Not so, Lord”
 - b. The meaning is two-fold: (1) God is abolishing the dietary laws; (2) God is bringing Jews and Gentiles into one body, the church
 4. He was a prepared man (vv.17-23a)
 - a. While Peter was waking up from his nightmare, three men from Joppa arrived
 - b. The Spirit told Peter to go with the three men “doubting nothing”; the phrase means “with no regrets” or “having no second thoughts”
 - c. Peter “lodged them”; the Greek word for “lodged” means “to entertain as a guest”
 - B. This is the sermon on the sheet
 1. The animals on the sheet represent Jews and Gentiles
 2. The sheet represents the church
 3. The four corners of the sheet represent the four corners of the earth; north, south, east, and west