

Today, we'd like to study the title of “Cornelius” in *Acts 10:1-23*.

To Online Word's people, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions:

Q1. In verse 4, “And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, “What is it, lord?” So he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God,” what will God do to Cornelius?

Q2. In verse 6, “He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do,” to Peter what happens?

Q3. In Verses 15 & 16, “And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, “What God has cleansed you must not call common.”<sup>16</sup> This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again,” what can we see?

**(Background)**

Centurion – a ruler over a hundred soldiers in the Italian army (e.g., in the Bible, a man of faith is shown.)

(Matthew 8:5-13) Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, <sup>6</sup> saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” <sup>7</sup> And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” <sup>8</sup> The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.” <sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” <sup>11</sup> And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

(Matthew 27:54) So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this was the

Son of God!

<p><b>10</b> <sup>1</sup>There was a certain man in <u>Caesarea</u> called <u>Cornelius</u>, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, <sup>2</sup>a <u>devout man</u> and one who <u>feared God</u> with all his household, who <u>gave alms generously</u> to the people, and <u>prayed to God always</u>.<sup>3</sup> About <u>the ninth hour</u> of the day he saw clearly in <u>a vision an angel of God</u> coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"</p> <p><sup>4</sup>And when <u>he observed him</u>, <u>he was afraid</u>, and said, "What is it, lord?"</p> <p>So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for <u>a memorial before God</u>. <sup>5</sup>Now send men to <u>Joppa</u>, and send for <u>Simon</u> whose surname is Peter. <sup>6</sup><u>He is lodging with Simon</u>, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." <sup>7</sup>And when <u>the angel who spoke to him</u> had departed, Cornelius called <u>two of his household servants</u> and <u>a devout soldier</u> from among those who waited on him continually. <sup>8</sup>So when he had explained all <i>these</i> things to them, he sent</p>	<p>1= Caesarea (the capital of Judea colony in Rome Empire)</p> <p>2= prayed to God always (moment to moment relationship with God, a man of prayer, like a proselyte, never heard of Christ )</p> <p>3. = the ninth hour (the Hebrew hour has 6 hours difference from our hour, so 3 AM.)</p> <p>4= Q1 ...he (Cornelius) observed him (the angel), he (Cornelius) was afraid... a memorial before God (so, God allows Peter to tell Christ to him, whose knowledge is complete. E.g. Ethiopian Eunuch <sup>1</sup>Acts 8:26-27 God is rewarder to those who seeks Him diligently <sup>2</sup>Heb 11:6)</p> <p>5= Joppa (South bound 30 miles from Caesarea, 50 km, see a Bible map)</p> <p>6= Q2 He (Simon Peter) is lodging with Simon, a tanner (a person to make animal hides into leather, treating dead animals – Jewish tradition developed dead animals as uncleanness from OT such as in <sup>3</sup>Deuteronomy 14:8; so, Peter already began to break the tradition.)</p> <p>7= the angel who spoke him (God through the angel specifically is working with Cornelius as well as with Peter, verse 10 below, Lord is working on both sides for His good purpose) ; two of ... servants and a devout soldier (total 3 gentiles)</p>
--	---

<sup>1</sup> Acts 8:26-27 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. <sup>27</sup> So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,

<sup>2</sup> Heb 11:6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

<sup>3</sup> Deuteronomy 14:8 Also the swine is unclean for you, because it has cloven hooves, yet *does not chew* the cud; you shall not eat their flesh or touch their dead carcasses.

them to Joppa.

<sup>9</sup>The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. <sup>10</sup>Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance <sup>11</sup>and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. <sup>12</sup>In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup>And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

<sup>15</sup>And a voice *spoke* to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." <sup>16</sup>This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

<sup>17</sup>Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold, the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. <sup>18</sup>And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging

9= Peter went up on the housetop to pray (Peter also is a man of prayer). about the 6<sup>th</sup> hour (noon, a lunch time)

10= he fell into a trance (a sleeplike condition)

11= saw (a vision, verse 17) heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners

12= all kinds of four-footed animals (mixed between clean animals and unclean animals in OT, Leviticus 11, called as common; So, it was natural that Jews developed a tradition not to eat food with gentiles with risking defilement . The tradition is the prejudice favorable to Jewish race against gentiles, i.e., racial prejudice)

14= Not so, Lord! (inconsistency between Peter and God)

15.16=Q3 again the second time, "What God has cleansed, you must not call common (but all clean!) 16. This was done three times (it shows that traditions many times are stronger even subconsciously than even solid doctrine rooted from scriptures, e.g., later Peter's division between Jews and Gentiles in one body of Christ, hypocrisy, <sup>4</sup>Gal 2:11-13 – how to overcome: 1. Full Holy Spirit's work; 2. All the Bible without skipping; 3. Participators of Word in the power of the Spirit)

17= Peter wondered with himself (he did not understand the vision)

<sup>4</sup> Gal 2:11-13 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; <sup>12</sup>for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. <sup>13</sup>And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

<p><u>there.</u></p> <p><sup>19</sup> While Peter thought about the vision, <u>the Spirit said to him</u>, “Behold, three men are seeking you. <sup>20</sup> Arise therefore, go down and go with them, <u>doubting nothing</u>; for I have sent them.”</p> <p><sup>21</sup> Then <u>Peter went down to the men</u> who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, “Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?”</p> <p><sup>22</sup> And they said, “<u>Cornelius the centurion</u>, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was <u>divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house</u>, and to hear words from you.” <sup>23</sup> Then <u>he invited them in and lodged them</u>.</p> <p>On <u>the next day Peter went away with them</u>, and <u>some brethren</u> from Joppa accompanied him.</p>	<p>19= the Spirit said to him (continually the Spirit was working.)</p> <p>20= doubting nothing (in light of the tradition not to be with gentiles)</p> <p>22= divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house (divine summon to Peter to go to the gentile’s house – lodge and eat with him – to break down the tradition)</p> <p>23= he (Peter) invited them (3 gentiles) in and lodged them (lodge and eat with them); the next day... with them, and some brethren (Jews, messengers <sup>5</sup> Luke 10:1-2 ) accompanied him (Peter to tell Cornelius the Gospel of Salvation in Jesus Christ)</p>
--	--

**All quotations are taken, except King James Version (KJV), from New King James Version (NKJV), ©1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.**

**All rights reserved. © Copyright 2015 by Wayne Kim. All rights reserved. No part of this material may be reproduced in any forms or by any means without the prior written permission of the publisher, except for brief quotations in critical articles or reviews.**

---

<sup>5</sup> Luke 10:1-2 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.<sup>2</sup> Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.