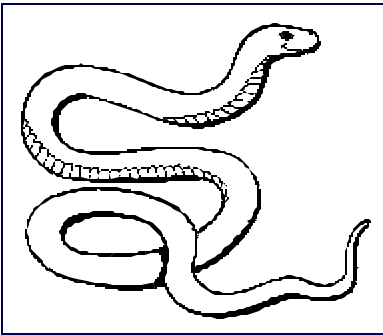


Cornelius and Peter

Acts 10



Which of these would you buy to eat?

How do you usually think of the item on the right?



Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for bringing me to know that Jesus is my Savior. We know that everyone needs to know about Jesus as his or her Savior to be saved. Help us to be ready to share the good news of salvation with people who do not know about Jesus. Bring us together with people who are ready to learn about Jesus. Keep us from selfish pride that would keep us from sharing the gospel with certain people. Father, You love us. Help us love others. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Acts 10

There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, {2} a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. {3} About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

{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. {5} Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.

{6} He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." {7} And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. {8} So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

{9} 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. {10} Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance {11} 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. {12} In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. {13} And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

{14} But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

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

{17} 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. {18} And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there.

{19} While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. {20} "Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

{21} Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, "Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?" {22} And they said, "Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you."

{23} Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from

Joppa accompanied him. {24} And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. {25} As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. {26} But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."

{27} And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. {28} Then he said to them, "You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. {29} "Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?"

{30} So Cornelius said, "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, {31} and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. {32} Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.' {33} So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God."

{34} Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. {35} But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. {36} The word which God sent to the children of Israel,

preaching peace through Jesus Christ; He is Lord of all; {37} that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: {38} how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

{39} And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. {40} Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, {41} "not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. {42} And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it

is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. {43} "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

{44} While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. {45} And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. {46} For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, {47} "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" {48} And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

What the Story Tells Us

1. Cornelius was a _____ who believed in the _____ of the _____ but did not know that _____ is the _____.
(Jesus, Roman, God, Messiah, centurion, Jews)
2. Peter was a _____ of _____ who believed that _____ came only for _____. (Jews, Jesus, disciple, Jesus)
3. God showed Peter that _____ is for everyone by sending him a vision of a _____ filled with _____ normally considered _____ by the _____. (animals, Jesus, sheet, Jews, unclean)
4. God told Peter to eat the _____. When Peter said, "_____, " because they were _____, God told him to not call something _____ when God had _____ it.
(animals, cleaned, no, unclean, unclean)

5. Peter went with the men from Cornelius and preached _____ to Cornelius, his relatives and friends. They _____ in _____ and were _____. (*believed, baptized, Jesus, Jesus*)

Outer Aim

God brought Cornelius, a Roman army officer, to faith in Jesus his Savior.

What God Tells Us

In his dream Peter was told, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." God tells us in 1 John 1:7, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Whom has God cleansed?

By whom does God cleanse?

Passages

Ephesians 2:13 - "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

What is a person's relationship with God without Jesus?

Isaiah 43:1 - "Thus says the LORD, who created you ... 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.'"

To whom is God speaking?

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - "God our Savior ... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Whom does "all men" include?

Inner Aim

God's love for souls is wide enough and deep enough to seek out everyone no matter who or where they are.

Hymn - Which stanzas of Hymn #373 emphasize these truths?

1. God gives us heaven.
2. Jesus saves sinners.
3. We are not saved by praying and giving money to the poor.
4. Everyone is a sinner.
5. Satan does not want us to believe our sins are forgiven.

Your Turn - Discuss the following.

- ▶ Suppose some children in your school are cruel to another child because she can't speak English very well, dresses very differently, and brings strange foods for lunch. What do you do?
- ▶ Suppose a boy in your neighborhood who doesn't take a bath very often and who sometimes curses wants to come to church with you. What do you do?
- ▶ Suppose at your house you have devotion every night after your evening meal. You have a new friend who does not know about Jesus. What do you do?

Prayer

Write a prayer about someone you know who does not know that Jesus is the Savior.