

Week 10

Acts 9:32-10:48

Pray

Read: Acts 9:32-43

1. In verses 32-43, Luke shifts the focus away from Saul and back to the Apostle Peter. Where does Peter travel throughout this section? What is significant about these locations? How does this fit in the story of Acts?

2. In this scene, Luke depicts Peter's ministry in a similar way to Jesus' own ministry (and even that of Elijah and Elisha (cf. 1 Kings 17:17-24)). What are the similarities or differences to Jesus? Why do you think Luke wants us to see this?

3. In verses 36-37, Luke briefly mentions a disciple named Tabitha. How is Tabitha as much an example in ministry as Peter?

>> Application & Reflection: In this scene, Luke gives us a glimpse of Tabitha's ministry. She is someone who ministers to needs and shows mercy to others. How might this teach/challenge us (individually and as a church) about our views of the Christian life and ministry?

Read: Acts 10:1-23

4. In verses 1-2, Luke introduces us to another individual named Cornelius. Who is Cornelius? How does Luke describe him? Why is he significant?

5. In verses 3-23, Luke depicts a divine encounter for both Cornelius and Peter. What is God doing in this moment? What are the similarities and differences between Peter and Cornelius' responses?

6. In verses 9-23, Luke depicts Peter's struggle with the divine encounter. What's going on for Peter? Why is he responding this way?

>> Application & Reflection: In this scene, Luke does something quite different. He shows us Peter's internal struggle with God. It is a picture of God working in Peter, not merely through Peter. What does this teach us about the nature of being God's servants on God's mission?

Read: Acts 10:24-48

7. In verses 24-29, Luke goes to significant length to detail Peter's entry into Cornelius' house. What is so significant about Peter entering the house? Why does Peter do this?

8. After Cornelius' explains why he sent for Peter, Peter then responds. In verses 34-43, Luke records another speech from Peter. What is Peter's message? How is it similar/different to his other messages?

9. In verses 44-48, Luke records the impact of Peter's message. What does God do in this moment? Where in Acts have we seen a similar moment like this before? What might be the significance of this?

>> Application & Reflection: In this scene, Luke shows us the conversion of Cornelius. Cornelius was a roman (full-blood gentile), a centurion soldier (who works for the enemy of Israel, Rome), and was a God fearer with high social standing. What message is Luke sending his readers? What might have been the impact of Cornelius' conversion on the society and believers around him?

>> Application & Reflection: In this scene, Luke shows us God's radical mission to save the nations through the message of the risen Christ. What do you learn about God in all this? How is your view of the gospel being shaped/challenged/encouraged? What other parts of the New Testament testify to this wonderful news of the risen Christ?

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