**LESSON-36**

Cornelius

Objective

***Let's learn about a good and pious man. Prayer or devotion alone does not save you but draws you nearer to God heart. An Angel is-sent with an errand but an apostle evangelist is sent with the message of salvation.***

Introduction

Cornelius was a centurion (captain) in the Italian army regiment at Caesarea. The first converts Pentecost and onwards were Jews. In the earlier days, the ministry and preaching of the apostles limited only to the Jews of Judea. Cornelius was the first convert from the Gentiles (People other than Jews).

The vision of Cornelius

Though Cornelius was a Gentile, he was a man with many good qualities.

1. He was a pious man.
2. He feared God with his entire house.
3. He did much to help poor people
4. He constantly prayed to God. In spite of all these, he was not saved.

One afternoon while Cornelius was praying, he clearly saw an angel of God coming to him in vision. The angel said to him, "Cornelius! God is pleased by your prayers and works of charity. Now send some men to Joppa for Peter. He will speak the word of God by which you and your family will be saved. He is a guest in the house of Simon, who lives by the sea". Immediately he sent two of his house servants and a God-fearing soldier.

The vision of Peter

Peter was praying in the upper room of Simon at noon. He became hungry and wanted to e something. Then he had a vision. He saw something coming down like a sheet being lowered by I four corners. There were all kinds of animals, reptiles and wild birds in it. Then a voice said to him "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!"

Peter said; "Certainly not, Lord! I have never eaten anything ritually unclean or defiled".

The voice spoke to him again, "Do not consider unclean that God has declared clean". This happened three times, and then the thing was taken back up into heaven, Peter wondered what these might be.

In the meantime, the men sent by Cornelius came and stood in front of the gate. The Lord said Peter, "Listen, three men are here looking for you. So get ready and go down and go with the without hesitation. For I have sent them." So Peter went down and said to the men, "I am the man you are looking for.

What is the matter?" The men explained about the vision of Cornelius to Peter.

The next day Peter went with them. Some brothers from Joppa also accompanied them.

Peter at Cornelius' house

Cornelius was waiting for him together with his relatives and friends. When Peter was about to go in, Cornelius fell at his feet and bowed down before him. He said "We are thankful that you came. We are all here in the presence of God, waiting to hear anything that the Lord has instructed you to say". Then Peter said, "Stand up! I myself am only a man". Then Peter addressed the gathering and said, "You know that a Jew is not allowed by his religion to visit or associate with Gentiles. But God has shown me that I must not consider any person ritually unclean or defiled. And so when you sent for me, I came without any objection."

Peter went on saying, "I now realize that God treats everyone on the same basis. Whoever worships him and does what is right is acceptable to him no matter what race he belongs to. You know the message of salvation God sent through His son Jesus Christ. We are witness of everything that He did and taught in Judea and Jerusalem. The people hanged Him on the cross but God raised Him from the dead. And He commands us to preach the gospel about forgiveness of sins and judgment. Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ will have forgiveness of sins".

Outpour of the Holy Spirit

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came down on all who heard and believed. They started speaking in other tongues. When the brothers who came with Peter from Joppa saw this, they were amazed, "How is it that these Gentiles also are filled with the Holy Spirit like us? If so, how can anyone stop them from being baptized with water?" So Peter ordered that these men be baptized.

A person is not saved if he is pious or moral. Unless and until he believes in Jesus Christ and accepts Him as his savior, he will not be saved. Until then he is not born again.

***Reference: Memory Verse***

Acts 10:1-48 **that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and**

**believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the**

**dead, you will be saved (Rom10:9)**

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*1. What was Cornelius?*

*2 What were the good qualities of Cornelius?*

*3. What vision did Cornelius of see?*

*4 What happened when Peter was speaking to Cornelius and his family members?*

*5. What vision did Peter see?*