

*Recap of 8/15/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 10:1-8):*

1. The significance of Peter opening the door of faith to the Gentiles, welcoming them into the church on an equal basis with Jews cannot be overstated.

-“Peter might have consented to preach to Gentiles, but he would have refused to eat with them or to adopt believing Gentiles into the Christian brotherhood. The gulf between Jew and Gentile was greater than can be imagined today. To the [Jew] the Gentile was an abomination; his touch defiled, his customs were abhorrent, his religion was a blasphemy.” (Erdman)

2. Cornelius was a “God-fearer,” who are described this way: “[they] attached themselves to the spiritual and monotheistic worship in the synagogues without becoming converts to Judaism,…” (Bruce)

3. Cornelius is an example of:

-a person who is moral and religious, yet he is not saved (Acts 11:14)

-a person who, living up to the light he has, God sends additional light

4. “The great question which I am asked more frequently than any other, especially by non-Christians, is, ‘What about the man who lives up to the light he has, and is faithful to what he knows, but has never heard of Jesus Christ? What happens to him?’” The story of Cornelius shows us what happens to a man like that. When he is obedient to the light he has, God will take it upon Himself to give him more light and to lead him to the place where he can come to know Jesus Christ.”

(Stedman)

5. The biblical teaching concerning Cornelius contradicts claims often made, such as: “one religion is as good as another,” or “all you must do to be saved is to be sincere and live a good life.” If any person could be saved by religion, morality, or philanthropy Cornelius would have been that person yet he was lost and in need of salvation through the name of Jesus Christ, as Acts 11:14 makes clear.