



God Wants to Help Everyone!

August 27, 2017

Acts 10:19-33

“The men replied, ‘We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say’” (Acts 10:22).

From the point of view of those who went to see the Apostle Peter, Cornelius was righteous: he supported their synagogue and was well-respected by the Jews. He was God-fearing; that is, he tried to obey the Ten Commandments, the moral law, even though he had not gone through the rituals of converting to Judaism. Though he was a Roman, Cornelius believed in the God of the Old Testament, and God sent an angel to tell Cornelius: “God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor” (Acts 10:31). From his study of the moral law, Cornelius knew that he had not lived up to the Ten Commandments. He knew that nothing he could do would cancel the wrongs that he had done or give him the power to consistently do what was right and pleasing to God; therefore, God graciously wanted Cornelius to learn about and come to believe in Jesus Christ. Through faith in Jesus Christ, Cornelius could receive the assurance of God’s forgiveness of his sins, cleansing from his sins, empowerment to obey God as the Holy Spirit led him, fellowship with those who love Jesus, ability to interpret the Scriptures rightly, and the gift of eternal life. Cornelius obeyed the angel’s message and sent for the Apostle Peter to tell him the good news he needed to hear; then, both Peter and Cornelius learned that God wants to bless all people through faith in Jesus Christ.

Thinking Further

1. What kind of influence did Cornelius have over others? Why might this influence have been important in this situation?
2. What reason did the angel give for coming to Cornelius?
3. When did Cornelius send for Peter?
4. Why did Peter go with the three men to see Cornelius?
5. What reason did Peter give for going into the house of Cornelius? Was this a good reason in your opinion? Give a reason for your opinion.