Acts: Peter's Report

April 5

INTRODUCTION: Acts: *Jesus' work, through the Apostles and disciples, by the Holy Spirit, to fulfil Acts 1:8*. The Church has now geographically expanded and welcomed Jews, Samaritans and now Gentiles. It is almost ready for worldwide witness.

KEY POINT: testimony, confirmation, expansion

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 10, Cornelius)

- Who was Cornelius?
- What was the difference between a Gentile, God-fearer and proselyte?
- Why is being a God-fearer (nominal Christian) not enough?
- Summarize Cornelius' conversion experience.
- Why was his conversion significant to Acts 1:8?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 10, Peter)

- What were the Jewish food laws? What had changed?
- Why could Peter not associate with non-Jews?
- In salvation coming to the Gentiles, how was God fulfilling His promises and designs?
- Why was Peter present here (Mt 16:19) and why did they speak in tongues?
- How does Cornelius' conversion advance Acts 1:8?

READ: Acts 11:1–18

QUESTIONS:

1. V. 1- What report had the church in Judea heard about the Gentiles?
2. *Word of God= the Gospel.*
3. **When we hear a report why must we validate it?** How many witnesses were there? (12).[1]
4. **V. 2–3- Why do we sense some reticence? Was everyone happy about this?**
5. *It is interesting that a "circumcision party" developed so early in the life of the Church. (This persisted to Acts 15).*
6. *V. 4+ Peter verifies the report and answers their objection by recounting Ch. 10.*
7. Peter provides a number of evidences to corroborate the report. How many can you find? What are they and what is their result?

Number	Proof	Result

8. **How was the evidence, seen through the final questions, irrefutable?**
9. **V. 18- What is the result among the circumcision party and indeed all the disciples?**
10. *Peter had been convinced by the evidence and now so too was the Jerusalem Church.*
11. **There are no Centurion's today, but how can distinctions/divisions still creep into the Church today? (e.g. racism, nationalism, cultural snobbery, ageism)**
12. **How are the conversions of Saul and Cornelius, both very different, a reminder of Ro 1:16?**
13. **How was this case essential for the Church supporting Gentile missions in fulfilment of Acts 1:8?**

NEXT: April 12- Antioch, Acts 11:19–30

[1] In Egyptian law 7 witnesses were needed; in Roman 7 seals to verify a will.