



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of April 27, 2025

Acts 10:1-8

[1] At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, [2] a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. [3] About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.” [4] And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. [5] And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. [6] He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.” [7] When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, [8] and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

1. What comes to mind when you think of a “voyager”? Think of the first people to discover Hawaii - what fears and uncertainties would they have faced? Would you ever consider going on such a journey? Why or why not?
2. How are Christians supposed to be like voyagers? Does this mean that every Christian must go to a far away country in order to obey Christ? Even if you do not go to Africa as a missionary, but stay here in comfortable Hawaii Kai, what fears and uncertainties must you overcome to be a ‘voyager’?
3. What made Cornelius an unlikely candidate to become a follower of Jesus Christ? When you think about the conversion of Cornelius as well as the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, what does this tell you about God’s heart for the lost? What lesson is God trying to teach us through this?
4. Although Cornelius was not a Jew, he was what was known as a ‘God fearer’. What do you think it means to ‘fear’ God? What about Cornelius’ life gives evidence to the fact that he was indeed a God fearer? (See v.2) What evidence is there in your life that you fear God? How does the fear of God impact the way you raise your children, the way you tithe, and the way you pray?
5. Long before Peter would preach the gospel to Cornelius, God was preparing his heart to receive the good news. Thinking back in your own life before you were a believer, how was God preparing you to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ?

6. God's love for a Roman centurion should not surprise us, just as His love for us should not surprise us. If we could understand just a fraction of the love God has for us it would solve most of our issues in this life. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Do you believe that everything humanity is longing for can be found in Jesus the Christ? Why or why not?

7. Cornelius responds immediately to obey the Lord's command to send men to retrieve Simon Peter from Joppa. What are some reasons/excuses Cornelius could have made for hesitating to obey or even completely ignoring God's command? Think about your own life and the ways in which you hesitate to obey or completely ignore God's commands. Why do we do this and why is simple obedience always the best and most beneficial thing for our lives? Can you trust God?