

INTRODUCTION: Stories about soldiers in the Bible fascinate us ~~who are in the army today~~ -- especially when they throw as much light on our present day situation as the interesting one about the Roman officer named Cornelius. He was the commander of almost 100 volunteers ~~of~~ of the Roman forces in Judea with headquarters in Caesarea.

Let's pull back the curtain ^{of time} and look at some of the scenes in the life of this interesting soldier, and see what we can learn this morning.

THE Honest Inquirer ^{person who was}
I. A RELIGIOUS SOLDIER ^{an open-minded} ~~believer~~ ^{ready} to believe.

A. Cornelius was a good & religious man who revered God and prayed to him, but without church connections
 B. He was seeking further guidance & help in his spiritual life.

C. He must have been praying for enlightenment & peace.
 D. Outward religion, good living & character, and charitable gifts are not in themselves enough.

E. God gives further light to those who live up to ^(In. 7:17) the light they have & seek more light & help.

F. Who was this devout soldier, a military orderly, whom Cornelius sent with two household servants to Joppa for Peter? (vs 7)

Could it not be that this unnamed orderly was a Xtn & by his dedicated Xtn life & witness & prayers helped to lead Cornelius to this experience?

THE FAITHFUL ~~CHAPLAIN~~ ^{Preacher}

A. So the officer sends for a ~~CHAPLAIN~~ ^{Preacher} -- named Peter, who comes right away.

B. He finds a large crowd gathered, a congregation of friends & relatives of the Roman officer.

C. He asked, somewhat hesitantly, I think, why they had sent for him (vs 29)

Why DO ~~soldiers~~ ^{people} call for the ~~chaplain~~ ^{preacher}?

1. Because of some crisis, like a death, or serious accident, or trouble, ^{regarding} battle or combat, or a domestic emergency, etc. Because of needs.

2. Because they want him to give his blessing to something that is wrong or questionable.

^{They want}
^{to use him.}

In. 7:17, "If any man's will is to do His will,
he shall know whether the teaching
is from God..."

803 *Sincerely*
3. Because they want him to show them the way to God, to hear the gospel message which he has been ordered by the Lord to proclaim, (vs 33), and WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY PETER HAD! because they need a ~~few~~ ^{preacher} shepard. FEW CHAPLAINS HAVE EVER HAD A MORE READY CONGREGATION.

Cornelius said, "Now therefore we are all here present in the sight of God, to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord."

Any ~~chaplain~~ ^{preacher} would give half of kingdom to be so addressed by his congregation!

Peter's

III. THE CHAPLAIN'S SERMON (10:36-43) ^{sums up the} gospel

A. A good example of apostolic preaching in Acts

1. He sets forth the essential facts about Jesus

a. God anointed Jesus with the HS & power

b. He went about doing good, healing, etc.

c. He was crucified in J'lem

d. God raised him on the third day

2. He indicates something of the theological significance

a. Jesus is Lord of All

b. The Judge of all the living & the dead

c. Forgiveness received through His name

B. God shows no partiality

(1). Between civilians & military people *veas + Gentiles*

(2). Between officers & enlisted men *and women*

(3). Between races or color

(4). Between people of different religions *or nationalities*

B. The Word which is proclaimed

1. The good news of peace by Jesus Christ

2. "You must know the story of Jesus;

it has spread thru all Judea & Galilee."

3. We are eyewitnesses

4. We are the men whom he commanded to preach and bear fearless witness.

IV. THE AMAZING RESULTS - (vs 44-48)

A. The Holy Spirit fell on them -

A GLORIOUS INTERRUPTION!

B. a great spiritual awakening.

C. New doors opened to the gospel

D. new understandings, interpretations,

and new directions for the NT churches.

E. B. This shows what can happen when people REALLY LISTEN to the gospel message.

1. Peter didn't even have time to give an invitation.
2. The people were believing & receiving WHILE THEY WERE LISTENING.
3. The HS falls on those who believe, *while Peter was still preaching*
4. The outward rite of baptism followed the inward spiritual experience.

F. There is absolutely no indication that Cornelius after his conversion felt any inconsistency between his Xtn calling and his military ~~service~~ ^{vocation} ~~or between his new faith and his callings~~. I. Paul saw no conflict with using the word "soldier"

1. Paul saw no conflict with using the word "soldier" in connection with Xty - 2 Tim 2:3-4.

2. The Christian soldier can use his personal influence upon others thru ~~the~~ ^{Jesus Christ} of his daily life & duty in the army.

3. Whatever your vocation, provided it is legal and honest, you can glorify J.C.

vs. 43: To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. (or the forgiveness of sins) through his name.

Bearcat
So. Vietnam - Dec. 67
An Khe, RVN - Mar. 68
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