

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

April 16, 1916, Lesson III.

Peter and Cornelius.—Acts 10, 1-48.

Commentary.—I. The vision of Cornelius (vs. 1-9). I. Caesarea—This was the Roman capital of Palestine at this time, the residence of Hero Agrippa who had been appointed procurator of Judea and Samaria. It was situated on the Mediterranean Sea and at one time was a prominent city. It is now a mass of ruins. Cornelius—A common Roman name. Centurion—A captain over a hundred soldiers. The Italian band—The Roman procurator or governor, had a body guard, and it is probable that the soldiers that composed it were brought from Italy. Cornelius was not a high officer, but he was in a responsible position. 2. A devout man—He gave careful attention to the interests of his soul. He was not a pagan, for he feared God and worshipped Him. With all his household—had a wholesome religious influence over his family and taught them about the true God. It seems also that this influence extended to the soldiers under his care. Gave much alms—His devotion to God led him to perform acts of charity to the people of Caesarea. Prayed to God always—It seems probable that Cornelius received some knowledge of the true God from the Jews among whom he lived. He had regular times for prayer. He was in earnest to know God's will and to do it.

3. He saw in a vision—As Cornelius desired to know spiritual truth, the Lord opened the way to a clearer revelation of Himself. It is evident that he was awake when this vision was seen by him (v. 30). It came to him while he was fasting and praying. The ninth hour—Three o'clock in the afternoon. It was the time of the evening sacrifice and the evening hour of prayer. An angel—A man "in bright clothing" (v. 30), a superhuman messenger. 4. He was afraid—When Cornelius realized the nature of his visitor, he was startled and amazed. What is it, Lord—His question indicated a desire to know what the Lord would impart to him and a submissiveness to the divine will. Thy prayers and thine alms are come up—The prayers and thine alms which is offered up in the temple. For a memorial before God—The prayers of Cornelius and his deeds of charity had not been unnoticed. God regarded them and in His own time sent the answer. 5. Send me to Joppa—Joppa was nearly thirty miles south of Caesarea on the shore of the Mediterranean. Simon—Peter, one of the most prominent of the Lord's apostles. Human agent—Peter was employed in answering Cornelius' prayers. 6. Simon on a tanner—We note with what detail the messenger gave direction to Cornelius. The occupation of a tanner was considered in a sense unclean by the Jews, for there was of necessity contact with the dead bodies of animals. By the sea side—The Jewish rule was that a tanner should be at least fifty cubits from the city. Simon's house was outside the city and close to the sea. The traditional house of Simon is still shown in Joppa. He shall tell thee—The Lord would employ Peter to impart to Cornelius the needed and desired information. 7. A devout soldier—Naturally Cornelius would select a devout soldier to go with his household servants on this important mission, since spiritual interests were involved. 8. Declared all these things unto him—Cornelius told the messengers of the message that had been divinely sent to him.

II. Peter's vision (vs. 9-16). 9. On the morrow—Cornelius had sent the three messengers to Joppa and they reached the place at about noon the next day. Upon the housetop—The roofs of Oriental houses are flat and are much used as places of rest and retirement. Sixth hour—Twelve o'clock, noon. 10. Would have eaten their first meal late in the forenoon and it is likely that Peter had eaten nothing that day. While they had eaten ready—While those in the house were preparing food, he fell into a trance—He was not in his natural condition of wakefulness nor was he asleep. He was in a state in which there were revealed to him objects, which, though not real, impressed themselves vividly upon his mind. 11. Heaven opened—There appeared to be an opening in the sky and heaven seemed to be the source from which the sheet came. A certain vessel—Something that would contain many animals. It was like a great sheet let down by cords attached to the four corners. 12. All manner—To the Jews beasts, birds, fish and creeping things were of the classes, clean and unclean, and both classes were mingled in this great vessel. 13. There came a voice—Peter recognized it as the voice of the Lord and ate. Before Peter fell into a trance, he was hungry; now, means of satisfying his hunger is pointed to him by the Lord. 14. Noise—Peter's Jewish training forbade his eating any animal food except that which was legally clean. He could not bring unclean animals for food. Common or as common which was used by the Gentiles, who had no respect for Jewish laws. The Jew held every act of life as religious. Unclean animals were those which Jews were forbidden to eat. 15. What God had cleansed—The heaven-sent voice reveals what had been enjoined from heaven at the giving of the law. The power which made the restriction can remove it. That it would be removed Christ had intimated (Matt. 15: 11) "Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man." The old dispensation is now to give place to the new, and Peter is taught by the vision that men are not to make such distinctions and separations for themselves.—Cam. Bib. 16. This was done while it was done three times in order that Peter might be deeply and permanently impressed with the truth conveyed.

III. Peter's obedience (vs. 17-23). When the vision had passed, Peter was considering its meaning. Then the messengers from Caesarea arrived at Simon's house and were inquiring for Peter. At the same time the Holy Spirit told Peter that three men were seeking him and he should not hesitate to go with them, for they were divinely sent. The messengers explained to Peter what their mission was and gave some account of Cornelius and his vision. Peter was fully obedient to the directions of the Spirit. The messengers from Cornelius remained at the house of Simon, the tanner, that night and the next day set out with Peter and six brethren (Acts 11: 12) for Caesarea. The vision of Cornelius and that of Peter fitted together perfectly in every part. The two men were honest and earnest in their purpose to do the will of God; and when they were convinced in what direction duty lay, they were ready to go, although they could not see fully the reasons for the steps they were taking.

IV. Gentiles receive the gospel (vs. 24-48). Cornelius called together his relatives and near friends to meet Peter and hear his words. The centurion received the apostle most cordially, prostrating himself before him. Peter told the company how the Lord had taught him that he should call no man common or unclean. After Cornelius had related his vision, Peter preached the gospel to those who were assembled with Cornelius. While he was speaking, the Holy Ghost came upon all who were present. The Jewish Christians were astonished because the Spirit came upon the Gentiles as well as upon themselves. The Gentile converts were baptized in the name of Jesus. Peter had learned the truth, "God is no respecter of persons" (vs. 34). We find Peter not long after the time he was speaking of the Gentiles were included in the gospel scheme.

Questions.—Where was Caesarea? Who was Cornelius? Who appeared to him? What was he told to do? Where was Peter? Who went with Peter to Caesarea? Whom had Cornelius called together? What had led Peter to see that God was no respecter of persons? Whom does God accept? Give an outline of Peter's sermon. What occurred while Peter was speaking? Why were the Jews astonished?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.
Topic.—Christianity Interpreted.
I. In its general scope to Peter.
II. In its saving power to Cornelius.

I. In its general scope to Peter. The second part of early church history is here begun. The great thought of the gospel, the conversion of the Gentiles, began to be accomplished. Thus the infant church took a new departure and entered upon its world-wide mission, henceforth to pursue a new line of progress. The apostle Peter received a symbolic revelation of the fact that the restrictions of the Mosaic law were removed and that the distinction between Jew and Gentile was abolished. God provided special teaching for him before he could enter upon the work to which he was called. It was a hard task for Peter to surrender his Jewish exclusiveness. He had been brought up to believe that the law was eternal in its minutest details, ceremonial and judicial. It was difficult for him to comprehend the counsel of God with regard to the calling of the Gentiles and to see that the narrowness of Judaism was contrary to the all-embracing spirit of gospel grace. Though he found it difficult to wear himself from the old covenant, he was God's chosen instrument to begin his work among the Gentiles. Heathenism was knocking loudly at the door of Christ's kingdom. Peter's resistance was characteristic. It required a miracle to induce him to open the door for the Gentiles to come into Christ's kingdom. All his convictions, instilled by training, ingrained by habit and deepened by narrow, but intense thought, suddenly gave way. His vision opened up a new era. It delivered him from the old to the new, transition from the old to the new. Peter realized divine teaching in the vision while he was perplexed about the scope of it.

II. In its saving power to Cornelius. It required a special divine instruction to prepare in the Gentile world an audience for a gospel sermon. Peter received a vision intended to break down his exclusiveness, while Cornelius received divine instruction to send for the apostle. Just when God was stirring large thoughts in Peter respecting the universality of the gospel, he was God's chosen instrument to desire for fuller knowledge of salvation. Cornelius was devout. He recognized the reality of religion. He revered God in his household. He practised known duties with diligence and zeal. With yearning heart he had penetrated to the true elements of the Hebrew religion. With all his excellence he was still unregenerated. The truth-teaching and the truth-teacher were alike necessary to choose Christ and the savior of Caesar met face to face at a happy meeting, divinely appointed and fraught with blessing. God's great sermon to the world was spoken by lips prepared to speak to hearts prepared to receive. It affirmed that the whole world was free to receive the message of the gospel. The two conditions which Peter laid down were repentance and faith. Cornelius received the gospel and embraced Christ without hesitation. A praying Gentile was the first uncircumcised person admitted into the Christian church. A praying apostle was the instrument to bring about the happy consummation. To Peter was given the distinguishing honor of bringing in the first Gentile convert. All barriers of race or rank were broken down. While Peter preached to Cornelius and his assembled household, the Holy Ghost was poured out in confirmation of the truth spoken, in confirmation of the genuineness of the faith of the converts and in confirmation of their fitness for church fellowship. The conversion of Cornelius created more astonishment than any other one conversion because of the new principle it embodied and the new policy it served to inaugurate.

What Judaism had done ceremonially for one nation Christianity was to do effectually for all nations. Cornelius



The food which is taken to nourish the body and keep up vigor and strength becomes a poison to the system when digestion fails. You feel drowsy after meals, lose appetite, suffer from constipation, have pains in the bowels and through the body. Instead of being digested, the food ferments and gives rise to gas or wind on the stomach, which crowds about the heart, causing suffocating feelings and derangements of the heart's action.

Resort to aids to digestion cannot afford more than temporary relief, for the trouble is caused by torpid, sluggish action of the liver and bowels. These organs must be awakened so that they will filter the

The ideal treatment for indigestion is Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills, because they promptly and positively remove the cause of trouble. Acting directly and specifically on the liver, kidneys and bowels, and their occasional use keeps these filtering and excretory organs regular and active. The blood is purified, pains and aches disappear, and such derangements as indigestion, constipation, biliousness, back-ach and kidney derangements are cured.

One pill a dose, 25 cents a box, all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Limited, Toronto. Do not be talked into accepting a substitute. Imitations disappoint.

Dr. A.W. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills

FARM GARDEN
SPRING TREE PLANTING.
There is a difference of opinion as to choice of spring or fall for planting trees. The argument in favor of fall planting is that the earth becomes fully settled around the trees, and the following spring finds them ready to start and grow with vigor. The advocates in favor of spring planting claim equally as good results from careful work. They make early purchases of trees, securing them absolutely necessary for promptly unscrupulous or careless dealers do not hesitate to dig up trees from the nursery even after buds have commenced their growth.
Young trees should be planted as they are sure to grow, have more and better small fibrous roots, will adapt themselves quicker to the soil and location, and with equal watching and care will grow so vigorously as to exceed older trees both in abundance of fruit and in the quality of the fruit.
Too great care cannot be taken in choosing the soil. A soil that is sandy is likely to be dry, and a very heavy, clayey soil is directly opposite—too wet, tough and adhesive; few or no fruit trees do well in it. A gravelly soil is hardly more desirable. But a deep, loamy, or alluvial soil may always form a good choice.
The land should be well drained. Trees should not be planted where there is the remotest chance for water to collect and stand near the surface. Such land will surely ruin the tree and bring all hope for fruit to naught.
In starting large orchards two teams are generally used. The first team plows to the depth of one foot a strip six feet or more wide. The second team follows with the subsoil lifter and sets to the depth of two feet. A strip of the same width is then crossed in the same manner.
These deep holes are dug one foot or more deep, three feet in diameter, and the trees are placed at the same depth as when removed from the former place. The earth is then replaced, care being taken not to bend nor crush the roots of the trees, and abundance of lateral room is allowed for the growth

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

FARMERS' MARKET.	
Apples, bbl.	3.00
Potatoes, bbl.	1.50
Eggs, new-laid, doz.	0.25
Butter, good to choice	0.30
Chickens, lb.	0.20
Fowl, dressed, lb.	0.25
Ducks, lb.	0.25
Geese, lb.	0.25
Turkeys, lb.	0.25
Beef, forequarters, cwt.	10.50
Do, choice sides, cwt.	12.00
Do, common, cwt.	9.00
Veals, common, cwt.	10.00
Do, prime, cwt.	11.00
Shop hogs, cwt.	14.00
Do, heavy, cwt.	13.50
Spring lambs, cwt.	11.00
Mutton, light, cwt.	14.00

SUGAR MARKET.	
Local wholesale quotations on Canadian refined sugar, Toronto deliveries:	
Royal academy granulated	100 lbs. 7.41
Lactic granulated	100 lbs. 7.51
Redpath granulated	100 lbs. 7.51
St. Lawrence granulated	100 lbs. 7.51
Dominion granulated	100 lbs. 7.41
St. Lawrence Beaver	100 lbs. 7.41
Local Blue Star	100 lbs. 7.41
Lentic brilliant yellow	100 lbs. 7.41
St. Lawrence golden yellow	100 lbs. 7.41
Reddish yellow	100 lbs. 7.11
Acadia yellow	100 lbs. 7.11
Dark yellow	100 lbs. 7.11
10-lb. bags, 100 over granulated bags	6.80
2 and 5 lb. packages, 100 over gran. bags	6.80

LIVE STOCK.	
Toronto, April 6.—Trade in cattle of good quality was fair at the Union Stock Yards today, the cheap and common grades were neglected. Receipts were 47 cattle, 29 calves, 1,776 hogs, 24 sheep.	
Export cattle, choice	8.25
Butcher cattle, choice	8.00
Do, do, medium	7.75
Do, do, common	7.50
Butcher cows, choice	6.75
Do, do, common	6.50
Do, do, canners	6.25
Do, do, bulls	5.50
Feeding steers, choice	7.25
Stocks, choice	7.00
Do, light	6.75
Milkers, choice each	60.00
Springers	100.00
Sheep, ewes	80.00
Butcher and culls	6.01
Lambs	11.00
Hogs, fed and watered	12.00
Calves	9.00

OTHER MARKETS.	
LONDON WOOL SALES.	
London.—The dispute between wool merchants and buyers has been settled, and the third series of auction sales will be opened next Tuesday. Buyers announced of time for payment owing to transportation difficulties containing increased charges. The merchants to-day extended the period of settlement to three instead of two weeks.	
WINNIPEG GRAIN OPTIONS.	
May	1.19 1/2
July	1.20 1/2
Oct.	1.21 1/2
Nov.	1.22 1/2
Dec.	1.23 1/2
Jan.	1.24 1/2
Feb.	1.25 1/2
Mar.	1.26 1/2
Apr.	1.27 1/2
May	1.28 1/2
June	1.29 1/2
July	1.30 1/2
Aug.	1.31 1/2
Sept.	1.32 1/2
Oct.	1.33 1/2
Nov.	1.34 1/2
Dec.	1.35 1/2
Jan.	1.36 1/2
Feb.	1.37 1/2
Mar.	1.38 1/2
Apr.	1.39 1/2
May	1.40 1/2
June	1.41 1/2
July	1.42 1/2
Aug.	1.43 1/2
Sept.	1.44 1/2
Oct.	1.45 1/2
Nov.	1.46 1/2
Dec.	1.47 1/2
Jan.	1.48 1/2
Feb.	1.49 1/2
Mar.	1.50 1/2
Apr.	1.51 1/2
May	1.52 1/2
June	1.53 1/2
July	1.54 1/2
Aug.	1.55 1/2
Sept.	1.56 1/2
Oct.	1.57 1/2
Nov.	1.58 1/2
Dec.	1.59 1/2
Jan.	1.60 1/2
Feb.	1.61 1/2
Mar.	1.62 1/2
Apr.	1.63 1/2
May	1.64 1/2
June	1.65 1/2
July	1.66 1/2
Aug.	1.67 1/2
Sept.	1.68 1/2
Oct.	1.69 1/2
Nov.	1.70 1/2
Dec.	1.71 1/2
Jan.	1.72 1/2
Feb.	1.73 1/2
Mar.	1.74 1/2
Apr.	1.75 1/2
May	1.76 1/2
June	1.77 1/2
July	1.78 1/2
Aug.	1.79 1/2
Sept.	1.80 1/2
Oct.	1.81 1/2
Nov.	1.82 1/2
Dec.	1.83 1/2
Jan.	1.84 1/2
Feb.	1.85 1/2
Mar.	1.86 1/2
Apr.	1.87 1/2
May	1.88 1/2
June	1.89 1/2
July	1.90 1/2
Aug.	1.91 1/2
Sept.	1.92 1/2
Oct.	1.93 1/2
Nov.	1.94 1/2
Dec.	1.95 1/2
Jan.	1.96 1/2
Feb.	1.97 1/2
Mar.	1.98 1/2
Apr.	1.99 1/2
May	2.00 1/2
June	2.01 1/2
July	2.02 1/2
Aug.	2.03 1/2
Sept.	2.04 1/2
Oct.	2.05 1/2
Nov.	2.06 1/2
Dec.	2.07 1/2
Jan.	2.08 1/2
Feb.	2.09 1/2
Mar.	2.10 1/2
Apr.	2.11 1/2
May	2.12 1/2
June	2.13 1/2
July	2.14 1/2
Aug.	2.15 1/2
Sept.	2.16 1/2
Oct.	2.17 1/2
Nov.	2.18 1/2
Dec.	2.19 1/2
Jan.	2.20 1/2
Feb.	2.21 1/2
Mar.	2.22 1/2
Apr.	2.23 1/2
May	2.24 1/2
June	2.25 1/2
July	2.26 1/2
Aug.	2.27 1/2
Sept.	2.28 1/2
Oct.	2.29 1/2
Nov.	2.30 1/2
Dec.	2.31 1/2
Jan.	2.32 1/2
Feb.	2.33 1/2
Mar.	2.34 1/2
Apr.	2.35 1/2
May	2.36 1/2
June	2.37 1/2
July	2.38 1/2
Aug.	2.39 1/2
Sept.	2.40 1/2
Oct.	2.41 1/2
Nov.	2.42 1/2
Dec.	2.43 1/2
Jan.	2.44 1/2
Feb.	2.45 1/2
Mar.	2.46 1/2
Apr.	2.47 1/2
May	2.48 1/2
June	2.49 1/2
July	2.50 1/2
Aug.	2.51 1/2
Sept.	2.52 1/2
Oct.	2.53 1/2
Nov.	2.54 1/2
Dec.	2.55 1/2
Jan.	2.56 1/2
Feb.	2.57 1/2
Mar.	2.58 1/2
Apr.	2.59 1/2
May	2.60 1/2
June	2.61 1/2
July	2.62 1/2
Aug.	2.63 1/2
Sept.	2.64 1/2
Oct.	2.65 1/2
Nov.	2.66 1/2
Dec.	2.67 1/2
Jan.	2.68 1/2
Feb.	2.69 1/2
Mar.	2.70 1/2
Apr.	2.71 1/2
May	2.72 1/2
June	2.73 1/2
July	2.74 1/2
Aug.	2.75 1/2
Sept.	2.76 1/2
Oct.	2.77 1/2
Nov.	2.78 1/2
Dec.	2.79 1/2
Jan.	2.80 1/2
Feb.	2.81 1/2
Mar.	2.82 1/2
Apr.	2.83 1/2
May	2.84 1/2
June	2.85 1/2
July	2.86 1/2
Aug.	2.87 1/2
Sept.	2.88 1/2
Oct.	2.89 1/2
Nov.	2.90 1/2
Dec.	2.91 1/2
Jan.	2.92 1/2
Feb.	2.93 1/2
Mar.	2.94 1/2
Apr.	2.95 1/2
May	2.96 1/2
June	2.97 1/2
July	2.98 1/2
Aug.	2.99 1/2
Sept.	3.00 1/2
Oct.	3.01 1/2
Nov.	3.02 1/2
Dec.	3.03 1/2
Jan.	3.04 1/2
Feb.	3.05 1/2
Mar.	3.06 1/2
Apr.	3.07 1/2
May	3.08 1/2
June	3.09 1/2
July	3.10 1/2
Aug.	3.11 1/2
Sept.	3.12 1/2
Oct.	3.13 1/2
Nov.	3.14 1/2
Dec.	3.15 1/2
Jan.	3.16 1/2
Feb.	3.17 1/2
Mar.	3.18 1/2
Apr.	3.19 1/2
May	3.20 1/2
June	3.21 1/2
July	3.22 1/2
Aug.	3.23 1/2
Sept.	3.24 1/2
Oct.	3.25 1/2
Nov.	3.26 1/2
Dec.	3.27 1/2
Jan.	3.28 1/2
Feb.	3.29 1/2
Mar.	3.30 1/2
Apr.	3.31 1/2
May	3.32 1/2
June	3.33 1/2
July	3.34 1/2
Aug.	3.35 1/2
Sept.	3.36 1/2
Oct.	3.37 1/2
Nov.	3.38 1/2
Dec.	3.39 1/2
Jan.	3.40 1/2</