

Sunday School Live Lesson

May 5, 2024

Peter Takes A Risk
[Peter Ministers to Gentiles]

Acts 10:24-38
[Acts 10:23b-38, 44-46a]

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Sunday School Lesson

Question for Us Today

May 5, 2024

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If the Lord doesn't discriminate, why should we?

Sunday School Lesson

Objectives

May 5, 2024

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To understand why Peter was sent to the house of a Gentile centurion.

To understand the Lord's perspective regarding diverse people.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

May 5, 2024

1. Bibliography

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2. Points of Information: Acts, Luke, Peter

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

May 5, 2024

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

Points of Information – Acts

The Book of The Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke.

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Much of the ministries of the Apostles Peter and Paul are described in the Book of Acts. Luke's close friendship and ministerial partnership with the Apostle Paul enabled him to bear witness to the spread of the Gospel – especially in terms of Paul's missionary journeys.

Points of Information – Acts

With its detailed information about the early Christian church, the Book of the Acts of the Apostles serves as a historical bridge between the Gospels and the Epistles (Letters) in the New Testament.

Points of Information – Luke

Luke was a Gentile, not a Jew.

Luke was a medical doctor by profession, which the Apostle Paul noted in Colossians 4:14 when he referred to Luke as “the beloved physician.”

Points of Information – Luke

Although Luke traveled and worked directly with the Apostle Paul, he (Luke) was not one of the original Twelve Disciples and he was not an eyewitness to the earthly ministry of Christ Jesus.

Points of Information – Peter

Peter's first name was actually Simon. Jesus gave him the surname of Peter. It's a word taken for a stone or a rock. The Greek word is "petros."

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Jesus recruited Peter and his brother Andrew as they were fishing with their father.

Points of Information – Peter

Peter, along with John and James, was a member of an inner circle of the original Twelve Disciples. Jesus took only these three with Him:

- a. into the Garden of Gethsemane, where He went to pray (Matthew 26:36-37; Mark 14:32-33);
- b. up onto the Mount of Transfiguration, where He was seen talking to Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36); and
- c. when He went to the home of Jairus, to heal that man's daughter (Mark 5:37; Luke 8:51).

Points of Information – Peter

Peter preached a powerful sermon on the historic Day of the Pentecost. As a result, over three thousand people became believers. Acts 2:14-41.

Peter Takes A Risk

Lesson Context - 1

In the first Chapter of the Book of Acts, the Risen Jesus spoke to the Disciples and told them that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

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In the second Chapter, Peter preached a powerful and wonderful sermon, where about 3,000 souls were saved.

Peter Takes A Risk

Lesson Context - 2

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Further in the Book of Acts, we see the stoning of Stephen, Philip's baptizing of the Ethiopian Eunuch and Jesus's challenge to the Apostle Paul (on the Damascus Road).

Peter Takes A Risk

Lesson Context - 3

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Now, we encounter the Apostle Peter as he was sent to the home of a centurion named Cornelius.

Acts 10:23b [NIV]

The next day Peter started out with them. And some of the believers from Joppa went along.

Acts 10:24

The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

Acts 10:25

As Peter entered the house,
Cornelius met him and fell at his
feet in reverence.

Acts 10:26

But Peter made him get up.
“Stand up, he said, “I am only a
man myself.”

Acts 10:27

While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.

Acts 10:28

He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.

Acts 10:29

So when I was sent for, I came without raising any objection. May I ask why you sent for me?"

Acts 10:30

Cornelius answered: "Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me

Acts 10:31

and said, "Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor.

Acts 10:32

Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He is a guest in the home of Simon the tanner, who lives by the sea.'

Acts 10:33

So I sent for you immediately, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us."

Acts 10:34 [KJV]

Then Peter opened his mouth,
and said, "Of a truth I perceive
that God is no respecter of
persons:

Acts 10:35

But in every nation he that feareth Him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him."

Acts 10:34 [NIV]

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism

Acts 10:35

but accepts from every nation
the one who fears Him and does
what is right.”

Acts 10:36

You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Acts 10:37

You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached –

Acts 10:38

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him.

Acts 10:44

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

Acts 10:46a

For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Remember these things:

God does not discriminate.

Neither should we.

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Next Sunday School Live Lesson

May 12, 2024

Salvation for All Who Believe

Romans 10:5-17

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