

August 15, 2021

The Centurion: Salvation to the Gentiles

Acts chapters 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 are about Paul being imprisoned which made it possible for him to preach the Gospel to officials, governors, the king and eventually appealing to Caesar. Through most of this, the Centurions guarded and protected Paul. The government allowed Paul to preach to the governments of the Jews and the Gentiles. Acts chapters 27 and 28 are about Paul's voyage to Rome and his ministry to the Gentiles. So now Paul starts his voyage to Rome with a **Centurion named Julius**. The ship landed at Sidon and Paul was given much favor and treated kindly by Julius, giving him liberty to see his friends and receive care. The ship sets sail again and landed at Fair Havens. It was getting late in the year and sailing was dangerous (Sept-Oct). Paul warned them not to set sail, but the Centurion was persuaded by the helmsman and the owner of the ship to set sail. A great tempest came upon the ship, and they used cables to secure the ship. The storm continued, and they threw tackle overboard to lighten the ship. The storm continued and they lost hope.

READ Acts 27:21-26

An angel of God gave a word of prophecy to Paul telling him to not be afraid and reminded him he must be brought before Caesar, all that are with you will be saved, but they must run aground on a certain island. This prophecy was **conditional**, and now the crew was searching for the island.

Once the ship ran aground, it started breaking apart and the soldiers were worried the prisoners would swim ashore and escape, so they wanted to kill them. The Centurion wanting to save Paul, kept them from doing so. Everything was lost including the ship, but they made it safe to shore.

They found favor with the natives of the island (Malta). The leader of the island was Publius and his father was very sick. Paul laid hands on him and he was healed. The rest of those on the island who were sick came to Paul and were healed.

Finally, Paul arrives at Rome and the Centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard, but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him. Paul calls for the Jews who live there to come and hear about the Kingdom of God and Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets. Some of the Jews believed, but **most rejected his words**. This was because of a rebellious spirit on the Jews (**Acts 28:26-27**). Their hearts have grown dull and ears hard of hearing, and eyes have been closed.

READ Acts 28:28-31

F/N SFLB "The closing message of Acts is that the Jews of Paul's day, from Jerusalem to Rome, rejected Jesus as their Messiah. Individual Jews believed, of course, but the torch of the gospel was passed from the Jewish nation to the Gentiles. Not only has Christianity spread from Jerusalem to Rome, it has also made the transition from an exclusively Jewish religion to a hope for all nations."

Cornelius the Centurion: Salvation to the Gentiles

READ Acts 10:1-2

Cornelius was not saved by grace, but believed in the monotheism of the Jewish religion. An angel of God appears to him and gives him a prophecy with specific direction to send men to Joppa and ask for Simon-Peter. At the same time, Simon-Peter in Joppa had a vision of a sheet coming down from Heaven.

READ Acts 10:12-16

Common: Strong's #4862 *koinos* (koy-nos') (literally) shared by all or several, or profane: defiled, unclean, unholy

The angel of God commanded Peter to do something that completely violates his faith and doctrine. Peter responds by saying "No!" **This was done 3 times**. When the Holy Spirit moves the Church in a direction that is contrary to basic doctrine, sometimes we call that direction from Holy Spirit "**Out of the box**" because it is not in our normal "box" of

ideological-doctrine. It is a **paradigm shift** in understanding how God is moving. It is a revelation of the mysteries of God. A religious-rebellious spirit will always work against the Holy Spirit, (**Mtt 13:10-17 Mk 4:10-12**).

READ Acts 10:19-20

Peter was about to be asked to travel to Cornelius' home. It is unlawful for a Jewish man to have fellowship in the home of a Gentile, but that is why the Holy Spirit reassured him to go with them and he did. When Peter met Cornelius, his friends and family had gathered at his house to hear from Peter.

READ Acts 10:28-29

Peter preaches the Gospel to the household of Cornelius and the Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles for they heard them speak with tongues and those of the circumcision who came with Peter were amazed that the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit. The new believers were baptized and Peter stayed several days.

Maybe the Holy Spirit is asking us to step out of our box, our traditional way of thinking so we too can reach more Gentiles like Cornelius the Centurion. Peter went to where the Gentiles were. People have contacted me and they are afraid of these mandated vaccinations. I have given several people a **religious exempt** letter. We are standing side by side with them today at a protest rally **against mandatory vaccinations** at Walmart in Sandusky from 3-5pm. We are giving people hope, the truth and pushing back against this Marxist-Luciferian movement. We have authority in Jesus Christ to "stand against" and people are asking for help.