

The Life of the Apostle Peter
Study # 38 B
Ministry in Sharon: Part III
Joppa and Caesarea
Rise and Eat: Peter's Vision of Gentile Food
(Acts 10:1-16)

I. The Visions (1-16)

A. Of Cornelius (1-8)

- 1. His Reputation, (1-2)**
 - a. As a Roman Soldier (1)**
 - b. As a Religious Servant (2A)**
- 2. His Revelation (3-6)**
 - a. The Source of the Revelation (3)**
 - b. The Surprise at the Revelation (4a)**
 - c. The Substance of the Revelation (4b-6)**
 - 1) The Commendation (4b; Josh. 6:25; Lev. 2:1)**
 - 2) The Command (5-6)**
- 3. His Request (7-8; Joshua 1:8)**

B. Of Peter (9-16)

- 1. The Circumstances of His Vision (9-10)**
 - a. The Pattern (9a)**
 - b. The Place (9b; Mt. 24:17)**
 - c. The Prayer (9c, Ps. 55:17; Dan. 6:10,13; Acts 6:4; Mt. 6:6; 1 Thess. 5:17)**
 - d. The Providence (10)**
- 2. The Content of His Vision (11-13)**
 - a. The Container (11)**
 - b. The Creatures (12)**
 - c. The Command (13)**
- 3. The Confrontation of His Vision (14-16)**
 - a. The Debate (14; Mt. 16:21-23; John 13:8-9)**

APPLY: About what are you telling the Lord, "No!"?
 - b. The Declaration (15, Mk. 7:14-19; Rom. 14:14; Col. 2:16; 1 Tim. 4:1-11)**
 - c. The Duplication (16)**

Secret Prayer

Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Barnes says, The meaning of the Saviour is, that there should be some place where we may be in secret—where we may be alone with God. There should be some "place" to which we may resort where no ear will hear us but "His" ear, and no eye can see us but His eye. Unless there is such a place, secret prayer will not be long or strictly maintained. It is often said that we have no such place, and can secure none. We are away from home; we are traveling; we are among strangers; we are in stages and steamboats, and how can we find such places of retirement? I answer, the desire to pray, and the love of prayer, will create such places in abundance. The Saviour had all the difficulties which we can have, but yet he lived in the practice of secret prayer. To be alone, he rose up "a great while before day," and went into a solitary place and prayed, [Mark 1:35](#). With him a grove, a mountain, a garden, furnished such a place, and, though a traveler, and among strangers, and without a house, he lived in the habit of secret prayer. What excuse can they have for not praying who have a home, and who spend the precious hours of the morning in sleep, and who will practice no self-denial that they may be alone with God? O Christian! thy Saviour would have broken in upon these hours, and would have trod his solitary way to the mountain or the grove that he might pray. He did do it. He did it to pray for thee, too indolent [lazy] and too unconcerned about thy own salvation and that of the world to practice the least self-denial in order to commune with God! How can religion live thus? How can such a soul be saved? *Barnes' Notes*

The three things a Jew must observe in order to remain a true Jew were (1) sanctity of the Sabbath, (2) circumcision, and (3) the dietary laws. *The Open Bible*

APPLICATION: God is teaching Peter that the Gentiles are not to be accepted only after they have cleaned up to Jewish standards. They are to be accepted on the basis of the cleansing that will come internally with the acceptance of the gospel that Peter will preach the next day!