

JUST A MAN  
ACTS 10:9-26 v. 26

*But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man."*

Introduction:

1. The Apostle Peter was given a vision from God concerning the need for Gentiles to enter into the family of God through faith in Jesus.
2. So the Holy Spirit of God directed Peter to go to Caesarea, to the house of a Roman centurion by the name of Cornelius, for God knew that Cornelius and those in his house would be open to salvation.
3. When Peter arrived he was invited in and immediately Cornelius fell down at his feet and worshipped him.
4. The response from Peter was one we must give much thought to. **v. 26** *"Stand up; I myself am also a man."*
5. It is so easy for newly born again children of God to "worship" those who take time to share with us the wonderful love and salvation of the Lord, rather than the Savior Himself.

I. PETER LET CORNELIUS KNOW THAT HE WAS NOT TO BE AN OBJECT OF WORSHIP. *"Stand up; I myself am also a man."*

- A. Catholicism teaches that Peter was the first Pope, and as such, they reverence Him, but Peter would have never accepted that worship, for his was only a man.
- B. To be a man, a real man in God's sight, means to be all that He desires us to be.
- C. Man was created to be an immortal, spiritual being. **Genesis 2:7** *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*
- D. Because of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, man became an imperfect sinner in need of redemption. That was the message Peter brought to Cornelius. **vv. 34-43\*\*\***

II. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT MAN'S LIFE IS SHORT ON THIS EARTH.

**Psalms 90:10** *The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

- A. Over and over we read in the Bible of people who lived many years, but we also read that they all died, even if they lived to be old according to our belief of life span.
- B. Hear what Jacob said to Pharaoh. **Genesis 47:9** *And Jacob said to Pharaoh, "The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage."*
- C. If Jacob could truthfully declare that in a life of one hundred and thirty years, his days had been few, what can we say of our much shorter lives?
- D. At the very longest we can only live a short time. **James 4:14** *...whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.*
- E. Peter understood that the opportunity for Cornelius and his household would not be there forever. That day was the day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2** *For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

III. GOD USED AN IMPERFECT AND WEAK MAN TO BRING THE GOSPEL TO THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS. *"Stand up; I myself am also a man."*

A. God has a host of angels He could have sent to Cornelius. **Hebrews 1:13-14** *But to which of the angels has He ever said: "Sit at My right hand until I make your enemies Your footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"*

B. Angels are not people who have died and gone to heaven, but are created spirits that are sent to be servants of those who are God's children.

C. So why does God use men instead of angels?

1. Because men understand men. The experience of one is very much the same as the others and makes the appeal of one to another very strong.

2. Because it gives sinners no excuse. When a saved sinner goes to a sinner who is not saved and tells him of having been saved, born again, it shows that the unconverted sinner can also be saved.

D. This is the approach the Apostle Paul used to share the Gospel with others.

**cf. 1 Timothy 1:15** *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*

Conclusion:

1. As a man or woman, you have wonderful possibilities for good or evil.
2. You can either be used of God to bring someone to Jesus, or you can be used of the evil one to turn someone into hell.
3. Peter was just a man, but he was open to being used by God to bring the Gospel of salvation to others.