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## Ordinary People ... Extraordinary God

"Cornelius: A Soldier For God"

03-30-25

Acts 10-11

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Introduction: Today we will conclude our study on ordinary people who did extraordinary things for God.

1. We met some very special people.
2. Our last focus will be on Cornelius.
3. He is only mentioned in Acts 10 where we learn:
  - He was a Roman Centurion.
  - He was a part of the Italian Cohort.
  - He was a God-fearing Gentile.
  - He was known and respected in the Jewish community.
  - God had a plan for his life.
4. In Acts 1:8 we find how God envisioned the spread of the gospel.
5. Up to this point Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria had received the gospel. It was only a matter of time before the gospel would reach the Gentiles.
6. I doubt we can appreciate what a huge step this would be.
7. Jews saw Gentiles as barbarians and wanted nothing to do with them.
8. For Gentiles to be accepted into the church, God will have to do a lot of convincing.
9. This is where God used Cornelius.
10. He is the one God used to break down that barrier and protect the unity of the church.

### I. God's Preparation

#### A. Cornelius

#### B. Peter

### II. God's Intention

#### A. Gentile Salvation

#### B. Church Unity

### III. God's Wisdom

#### A. Understanding Reality

#### B. Overcome Resistance

Conclusion: This might not seem all that extraordinary.

1. We never hear of Cornelius again, but God's timing is impeccable.
2. In the very near future the church would grapple with "large numbers of Gentiles turning to Christ."
3. But because of Cornelius and Peter's involvement, God had prepared His people to deal with the explosive moment.
4. Now, some 2,000 years later, Gentiles make up the majority of the people of God.
5. But that reality starts with Cornelius.
6. God used him to break down barriers and protect unity.
7. He's a great example for us to follow.