

HERE TO HEAR

Acts 10:33

When we assemble we should be gathering to worship and hear from the Lord.

I. **HERE** - They were gathered to worship

A. THE ASSEMBLY: Gathered

1. Invited by Cornelius (24 & 27)
 - a. He called together his relatives and close friends (24)
 - b. Many people assembled (27)
2. Intrigued by Peter (25-29)
 - a. A common man (25-26) > Not one to be worshipped
 - b. A crazy man (27-28a) > Among them though it was unlawful
 - c. A committed man (28b-29a) > Obeying God without objection
 - d. A curious man (29b) > Unsure why he was there!

B. THEIR ATTITUDE: Worship

1. Present
 - a. Attending not absent ... we are all here
 - b. Attentive not distracted
 - c. Attentive not sleeping!
2. Before the Lord
 - a. Aware of their real audience - See Matt. 18:20
 - b. Accountable to Him

II. **TO HEAR** - They were gathered to hear from the Lord

A. THEIR MINDSET (33b)

1. A readiness to hear all
 - a. An engaged listener: Knowing that this was important
 - b. An active listener: Here to hear not to be seen
 - c. Ready to hear all that God commanded > Not to hear the latest gossip
 - d. Not tuning out > "I've heard that before"
 - e. Not interrupting or making it hard for others to hear the speaker
2. A recognition that Peter spoke for God
 - a. They knew that Peter was there because God had told Cornelius that Peter had a message for them (22)
 - b. F. F. Bruce insightfully states, "Did ever a preacher of the gospel have a more promising audience than this?" [F.F. Bruce, p. 223 - "Acts" in NICNT]

Over please >

B. THE MESSAGE (34-43)

1. God is impartial (34-35)
2. Jesus went about doing good (36-38)
3. The Jews killed Jesus (39)
4. God raised Jesus (40-41)
5. God ordained preachers to testify... (42-43)
 - a. The bad news (42) > Jesus will judge all men
 - b. The good news (43) > Jesus will forgive those who believe in Him

C. THE MARVEL (44-48)

1. The listener's were converted (44-46)
2. The listener's were baptized (47-48a)
3. The listener's wanted more (48b)

III. HERE TO HEAR OBSERVATIONS

- A. Gathering an assembly takes initiative (24)
- B. A sense of anticipation overshadows exciting worship (33a) > "Now then!"
- C. As God's spokesman (Eph. 4:11-12) your pastor has a message from God for you
- See Heb. 13:17

IV. HEAR TO HEAR QUESTIONS

- A. What happens when you're "there" and not "here?"
 1. You may gain recreation, relaxation and reunion ...
 2. But, you miss the assembled worship - Note Heb. 10:23-25
 3. The more you yield to being "there," the less you will want to be "here."
- See Heb. 3:12-13
- B. What happens when what you hear is not the Word of God?
 1. You can be delightfully deceived! - See II Cor. 11:12-15
 2. You can be duped by another gospel! - Consider Gal. 1:6-9
 3. When truth is deserted, danger is lurking! - Note II Tim. 4:1-5

CONCLUSION:

In 2016 we will be gathering to worship and hear from God.
- *Will you be here to hear?*