That The World May Know – The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah - Session 10: Total Commitment

Caesarea – Where Gentiles First Received God's Spirit

- Who was Cornelius? Where did he live? What do we know about his lifestyle? Acts 10:1 – 2
- Which unusual spiritual events happened to Cornelius and to Peter? Act 10:3 – 16
- After Cornelius's messengers found Peter, what unusual thing did Peter do? Acts 10:23 – 33
- 4. What happened as Peter shared the message of Jesus Christ with the Gentiles in Caesarea? What was the response of the Jews who were with Peter? Acts 10:44 – 48

The Herods A Legacy of Rejection

- How did Herod Agrippa, grandson of Herod the Great who built Caesarea, respond to the message of Jesus being spread throughout his realm? Acts 12:1 – 4
- How did God thwart Herod Agrippa's plan? Acts 12:5 – 19
- How would you describe Herod Agrippa's relationship to God? Acts 12:21 – 24

What was the result of Agrippa's attitude?

- What had Herod the Great done that no doubt influenced his grandson? Matthew 2:13 – 16
- 5. What does this example of Herod emphasize concerning the legacy each of us will leave and the way in which the values of parents and grandparents can influence their children?

Jesus Testimony to a Culture Shaper

- 1. Who was Pontius Pilate? Matthew 27:11
- What do the questions Pontius Pilate asked of Jesus Christ reveal about Pilate? Matthew 27:11 Matthew 27:13 Matthew 27:17 Matthew 27:19 – 21 John 18:33 – 38
- What do Jesus Christ's answers to Pontius Pilate reveal about His desire to tailor His message to fit Pilate's pagan worldview? John 18:33 – 37
- 4. To who are Jesus Christ's followers called to be witnesses? Matthew 28:19 – 20 Acts 1:7 – 8 Luke 21:10 – 19

Caesarea – Launching Point for Spreading the News of Jesus Christ

Herod built a seaport and cosmopolitan city that would play a vital role in spreading the news of Jesus Christ throughout the Gentile world, even though Herod built them solely to bolster his ego and glorify himself.

- Where did Philip share Jesus Christ's message? Acts 8:40 Acts 21:7 – 9
- Where did the Gospel of Jesus Christ first reach the Gentiles? Acts 10:1 Acts 10:24 – 33 Acts 10:44 – 48
- What role did Caesarea play in each of Paul's missionary journeys? Acts 9 Acts 15 - 18 Acts 18- 21 Acts 27 – 28
- There was a plot against Paul's life. What city was Paul sent to where he was able to share Jesus Christ with two Roman governors and Herod Agrippa II? Acts 23:23 – 27 Acts 25:1 – 6 Acts 25:23

References

Matthew 2
Matthew 27
Matthew 28
Mark 6
Luke 2
Luke 21
John 18
Acts 1
Acts 8
Acts 9
Acts 10
Acts 12
Acts 15
Acts 16
Acts 17
Acts 18
Acts 19
Acts 20
Acts 21
Acts 23
Acts 24
Acts 25
Acts 26
Acts 27
Acts 28

Taking Action

Caesarea stood at the crossroads of culture, near the ancient trade route called the Via Maris. There, the first Christians shared the message of Jesus with powerful people who shaped their culture. Those first Christians were like standing stones. God placed them on the crossroads of the world so that their lives could point people toward God. In that pagan city, the Christians spoke and acted boldly, even though they were sometimes ridiculed and persecuted. As a result, many people around the world—including modern-day non-Jewish Christians—came to know Israel's God and His Messiah.

Now it is your turn. You live at a crossroads. The world is watching you. You must make a choice. Will you succumb to the self-indulgent and selfglorifying culture of our day? Will you allow your culture to woo you away from God and encourage you to seek pleasure apart from God? Or will you act as a standing stone, boldly proclaiming God's message? Will you live out your commitment to Him to a watching world?

Where do you stand? What is your choice?

