

# **Acts 10**

**Changing a Mind  
Removing the Barrier**

## **(Really) Short Version**

God changed Peter's mind about the Gentiles

Gospel message is for people of all nations

People don't have to follow all of the customs to  
be a Christian

# Cornelius

Stationed in Caesarea

Devout man who feared God (God-fearer)

Gave alms (gifts) to the poor, prayed continually

Household also feared God

Likely connected to a synagogue

Unlikely that he became a Jew

Has a vision (prayers and alms have ascended,  
send men to Joppa to get Peter)

When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Acts 10:7-8 (ESV)

## Peter's Vision

The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth.

Acts 10:9-11 (ESV)

In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: “Rise, Peter; kill and eat.” But Peter said, “By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean.” And the voice came to him again a second time, “What God has made clean, do not call common.” This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven.

Acts 10:12-16 (ESV)

common (unholy), unclean

Leviticus chapter 11

Deuteronomy chapter 14

# Peter

close friend/follower of Jesus  
didn't always understand

Three (3) times:

Denied knowing Jesus

Feed My sheep, tend/feed My lambs

“by no means Lord”

“What God has made clean, do not call common.”

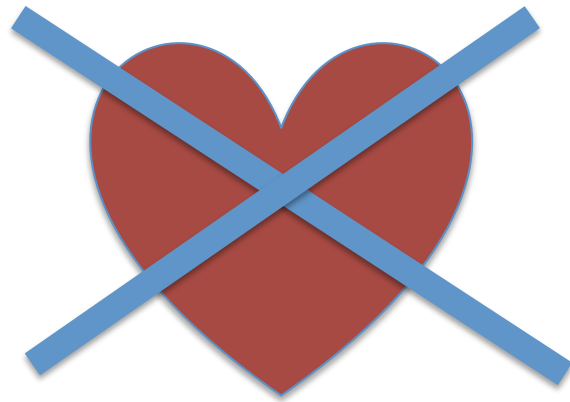
Three (3) men come looking for him

And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.” And Peter went down to the men and said, “I am the one you are looking for. What is the reason for your coming?” And they said, “Cornelius, a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who is well spoken of by the whole Jewish nation, was directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and to hear what you have to say.” So he invited them in to be his guests.

Acts 10:19-23 (ESV)



**Jews**



**Gentiles**

The next day he rose and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. And on the following day they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. When Peter entered, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I too am a man.”

Acts 10:23b-26 (ESV)

**Worship God Alone**

**Love God the Most**

And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.

Acts 10:27-28 (ESV)

God changed Peter's mind  
about associating with Gentiles

So I sent for you at once, and you have been kind enough to come. Now therefore we are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

Acts 10:33 (ESV)

“So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”

Acts 10:34 (ESV)

# Towards Salvation

God-fearer, prayers and alms remembered

Acceptable to God

Didn't fully understand who God was

(knew some things about Jesus)

Acceptable ≠ saved

Close, but not quite...

# About Jesus (from verses 36-43)

brings peace (he is Lord of all)...

anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power...

went about doing good and healing all who were  
oppressed by the devil, for God was with him...

put to death by hanging him on a tree...

God raised him on the third day...

ate and drank with witnesses...

appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead...

**everyone who believes in him receives  
forgiveness of sins through his name**

## Peter (from verses 36-43)

we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of  
the Jews and in Jerusalem ...

God raised him on the third day and made him to appear,  
not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by  
God as witnesses ...

ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead ...  
commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that  
he is the one appointed by God to be judge ...

To him all the prophets bear witness that  
**everyone who believes in him receives  
forgiveness of sins through his name**

## **Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit**

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

Acts 10:44-46 (ESV)

**No pre-requisites**



Then Peter declared, “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Acts 10:46-4 (ESV)

# Recap...

Cornelius – Gentile God-fearer

Peter – realized God was telling him not to call people common (changed Peter's mind about the Gentiles)

Cornelius (and others) hear the gospel, receive the Holy Spirit, and are baptized

Ask Peter to stay for a while

# One True God

triune - Father, Son, Holy Spirit

demonstrated His grace and love through Jesus

Jesus:

- put to death on a tree
- raised from the dead
- will judge the living and the dead
- Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of sins through His name

# Gentiles Welcome!

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17 (ESV)

# Implications for Us

Do we believe?

Do we have our own “clean” and “unclean”

Is there someone we should be sharing with?

Is God our first priority?

**Let's honour Him in our lives!**