

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"All Are Welcome"
Acts 10:1-35
Study-19

Acts 10:30-35

What is recorded in **Acts 10-11** is the change that the Church went through by the Holy Spirit. God welcomes the Gentiles into the church.

Acts 10-11 might be breezed over as just history, **Peter's vision is told three times and Cornelius' is told four times.**

Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20

Thought of our Passage: "The Believer Needs To Remain Flexible Because Sometimes God's Ways Are Not Our Ways, And Ours Are Not His."

- 1. Verses 1-8 Preparation of Cornelius**
- 2. Verses 9-23 Preparation of Peter**
- 3. Verses 24-35 Preparation of Caesarea**

1. Verses 1-8 Preparation of Cornelius:

Acts 10:1 Now - Context - Luke left off with Paul being sent away to Tarsus and a brief account of Peter's Healing Ministry, in which he healed and raised the dead. Then Luke concludes with these words, **Acts 9:43**

God is in the Process of Stretching and Changing Peter.

there was a certain man at Caesarea - This city is on the Mediterranean Sea. Roman stronghold Gentile city. It is 30 miles North of Joppa where Peter was staying. Herod rebuilt it, home of **Pilate, Felix, Festus**. It was a port that was created for shipping.

"Pilate Stone" was found in secondary usage as a step in the theater.

named Cornelius, He was a gentile. **a centurion** Is a Roman officer over 100 men. (Like a Captain) Backbone of the Roman army.

of what was called the Italian cohort, (regiment) A Roman military unit with 1000 men; ten cohorts formed a legion.

Acts 10:2 a devout man, *"to be reverent, pious or godly"* This was a man that was committed to the God of Israel. It was not for show but was from his heart.

and one who feared God – He had learned about the God of Israel.

and gave many alms to the Jewish people, (Generous)

and prayed to God continually. (Monotheistic/One God - Attempting To Find God)

Cornelius was not a Believer: Acts 11:14; John 3:3

Acts 10:3 ninth hour of the day 3:00 PM an hour of prayer and the evening offering.

Salvation Is Always Initiated by God – he clearly saw in a vision an angel

Acts 10:4 "Your prayers and alms have ascended Matthew 7:7-8

Acts 10:5 This town Joppa is called today, *Jaffa*. It is about 30 miles South from Caesarea.

Joppa – "Beautiful" It is on the coast and is a little city with a lot of history.

Simon, who is also called Peter; John 10:16

Acts 10:6 Tanners were considered outcasts by the Jews and unclean.

This would encourage Cornelius because this Jew Simon was not bound by Jewish rules.

Acts 10:7 he summoned two of his servants - Cornelius Cooperated With God – immediately went to make preparations to follow the light.

Acts 10:8 Cornelius only had to be spoken to one time. God had to speak to Peter **3 times**.

2. Verses 9-23 Preparation Of Peter:

Acts 10:9 On the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, It would have taken them a full day to travel 30 miles.

Peter went up on the housetop The roofs were flat, and they were used to sit out on, and they would entertain and company would visit there.

Peter Is Seeking God: about the sixth hour to pray. Note that it is 12:00 PM, the Jewish afternoon time of prayer. Peter went to a secluded place to pray.

Acts 10:10 But he became hungry, and was desiring to eat; wanting to pray but he is hungry!
he fell into a trance, (distraction, disturbance) – *“is passing out of oneself, being driven out of one’s senses”*

Acts 10:11 object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, the great sheet is the Church. The four corners are speaking about, North, South, East and West, Whosoever will let him come. Uttermost parts of the earth.

Acts 10:12 Here was this sheet with a mixture of clean and unclean animals.

Acts 10:13 "Get up, Peter, kill and eat!" Kill the clean and the so-called unclean.

Acts 10:14 "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."

There are two ways of looking at this statement:

- 1. "By no means, Lord"** We can't say, **"Lord!"** (Master) Then say, **"By no means, Lord"** - If He is Lord, that is master, how can we say no to the master?
- 2. "By no means, Lord"** This was a test of God, seeing if Peter would stay true to what is clean.

for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."

I have always followed the dietary laws. **Leviticus 11** God gave the laws of distinctions.

Acts 10:15 "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy." How dare you call unclean what God has called clean!
1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Acts 10:16 This happened three times, and immediately the object was taken up into the sky.

God was trying to teach Peter, a Jew, about Clean People Not Clean Food!

and immediately the object was taken up into the sky. The Church was born of God, and the believers will return to God!

Verse 12 crawling creatures of the earth What is that? It is you and me!

Acts 10:17 Peter was greatly perplexed in mind
He did not fully understand.

Acts 10:18-19 Peter was reflecting on the vision, - The meaning is that unclean Gentiles were now to be cleansed by the Gospel of Christ and brought into the Church.

Colossians 2:14,16-17

the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are looking for you. Notice that the Holy Spirit is speaking and leading Peter.

Acts 10:20 "But get up, go downstairs and accompany them without misgivings,
Sometimes people come to us and say, **"God told me to tell you!"**

Acts 10:21-23 So he invited them in and gave them lodging - This is further progress in the breaking down of the wall. Here Gentiles and Jews lodging together.

some of the brethren from Joppa accompanied him. Acts 11:12 said that it was six other Jews who came with him (Wise). **Peter will take heat for this!**

3. Verses 24-35 Preparation of Caesarea:

Acts 10:24 had called together his relatives and close friends.

Acts 10:25-26 "Stand up; I too am just a man."

Acts 10:27-28 God had chosen Israel but instead of being humbled they became prideful and exclusive!

and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean. The vision was now making sense to Peter. **God had removed the distinction.**

Acts 10:29 So I ask for what reason you have sent for me." Still did not know what the full implication was.

Verses 30-33 Cornelius Recounts His Vision:

Acts 10:30-33

Acts 10:34 Understand – *“take hold of, to grasp with the mind”* We would say, *“I get it!”* **God is not one to show partiality, Deuteronomy 10:17**

Acts 10:35

Application:

- 1.** When A Person Responds To The Light, God In Turn Gives Further Light, Leading To Jesus.
- 2.** Having Salvation Should Humble Us, Not Inflate Us With Pride.
- 3.** Acts 10 Reveals How God Often Works. God Was Drawing A Nonbeliever To Salvation. At The Same Time, God Was Preparing A Believer To Receive The New Believers.