

## Putting Feet to Your Faith

### Acts 10:21-48

- Last week we saw how God is at work in both a man named Cornelius who is a Roman Centurion, and the Apostle Peter who is staying in Joppa with Simon the tanner. In this story we see the various ways that God will speak to an individual in order to prepare them for what He wants us to do > **to Cornelius God spoke through an Angel**, and **to Peter in a vision**, and when God sends three men to Simon's gate asking for Peter it was confirmation that they both had heard the Lord correctly and this is where we're going to pick up the rest of the story.

### V21-48

- **V21-22** up to this point Peter has lived as an orthodox Jew his whole life, so God had to prepare him for this transition of Jew and Gentile worshipping together, accepted as equals, becoming one to make up what is now called the New Testament Church. To Peter the Law of Moses was seen as a wall between the Jews-Gentiles, as the Gentiles were seen as aliens and strangers concerning Jewish Covenants and promises, so that wall had to be broken down > **Eph 2:11-18-** as God declares there is now no difference either in **condemnation** > **Rom 3:22-23-** for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, or **salvation** > **Rom 10:12-13-** He is the same Lord.
- Now Peter has a decision to make, he knows this isn't a coincidence having just experienced the vision and having heard the Spirit urge him to go with these men, but being a Jew and then seen traveling with Gentiles is against both his culture and his sensibilities as he's been taught to hate the Romans and especially their military. **V23-24** yet Peter makes the bold decision to listen to the Lord and throw away all that he had held dear for all of his life and trust the Lord, I think we can relate to this, for salvation makes us all make this choice to either trust God, or stay stuck in what you thought was true or what you were told by your religion or the adults in your life.
- **V25-29** Cornelius is waiting anxiously for them and not being taught in spiritual matters doesn't know how to greet Peter so he simply falls down and takes the posture of worship toward him, that's how overjoyed he was that Peter came. You have to understand Cornelius could have legally forced Peter to come to him being an officer in the Roman army but instead he takes the role of subservient showing his humility that God would open his eyes and heart to the truth.
- Peter could have exercised his Jewish nationalism and said that's right Roman take your rightful place at my feet and bow to us, the people of God whom you've wronged all these years, but he doesn't and instead quickly corrects him. This is Peter resisting the temptation of elevating race, culture, color, or nationality, over being first a citizen of Heaven, and thus moving forward the Lord's agenda and not man's, which sometimes can be very difficult not to do. In entering the house he gets straight to the point and tells them that it's against Jewish custom and traditions which prohibit such actions but the Lord has changed both his heart and his mind I love this!

- **V30-35** now Cornelius shares his story which corroborates what Peter experienced, and it shows how God is working on all sides meeting everyone exactly where they are to bring us to this place where we can come together in unity and in truth. **V34-35** are so important to what is transpiring for this is the unification of the church right here, in Jewish culture if a Jew married a Gentile the Jewish community would have a funeral and consider them dead, so they were no more accepted at temple, family gatherings, the market place, they were shunned completely. But now Peter is saying this practice is no longer acceptable, God has shown us a better way.
- **V36-43** Peter correctly explains to the Gentiles how Jesus lived, why Jesus died, and that He is alive again, and all this was prophesied throughout history and has been fulfilled, and the great part about all this is >“**you are a part of it, for whoever believes in Him will receive forgiveness of their sins**” wow! **V44-46** the Holy Spirit interrupts and affirms everything that Peter said by falling upon everyone who heard and trusted in the words that were spoken, and those who were Jewish that came along with Peter are absolutely amazed at what their witnessing.
- **V23** way back in Joppa Peter had the good sense to bring along Jewish witnesses to testify to what would happen in Caesarea, for their no doubt would be plenty of stories many of which are not true that would accuse Peter of being unlawful both spiritually and culturally, and some would try and get him banished out of the Jewish community so he smartly brought witnesses. **V47-48** upon hearing them speak in languages that they previously had not learned just like in **Acts 2**, Peter ask the question: “**can anyone forbid these formally hated Gentiles from being baptized**” for they have already been baptized into the body through the Holy Spirit.
- One of the many traits of a new believer is they want more spiritual food just like a new born, as they ask Peter and the disciples to stay a few more days to teach and fellowship with them. **Math 16:16-19**- where Peter said “**You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God**” afterward Jesus said flesh and blood hadn’t revealed this to you but God the Father, and its upon this rock, not Peter but what he said about Jesus, that the church would be built. Peter now uses the Keys to open the door of **salvation to the Jews Acts 2**, to the **Samaritans in Acts 8**, and to the **Gentiles in Acts 10**, and we are the wonderful fruit that has continued to grow since that day.