

ACTS 10 PART 1

Main Point: It's all about the Heart!

*15 But the voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean."
Acts 10:15*

Digging Deeper

Acts Chapter 10 paves the way for Gentiles (Non-Jews) to enter the Kingdom of God. Yet, it took God showing Peter 3 times that He had made what was unclean now clean in a vision. This ultimately prepared his heart, to receive Cornelias' men, Not only were they Gentiles, but they were also Roman Military. Peter would have had a level of disdain for the Romans that stems from years of tradition, not just because of the Roman occupation, but because the Gentiles were considered to be unclean. A few things that jump out at me during this chapter:

- Jews don't hang out with tanners. Being around dead animals was considered unclean and no good Jewish man would spend time in a tanners house, which is often where they worked as well.
- Jews don't host Gentiles, as a Jew, it would be forbidden to bring them into your home, much less share a meal with them.

So we can see right out the gate, that Peter's heart was already being worked before the vision he received. The vision then knocked down the walls of racism and further unified the world under the name of Christ. As Jesus said, "First to Judea, then Samaria, then to the ends of the earth..."

Discussion Questions

1. How do you find God's plan for your life? (*Romans 12:1-2*)
2. Have you ever encountered a life event where you could see God working in multiple people's lives at the same time for one goal or purpose?
3. Originally, the food laws existed to separate and protect the nation of Israel from pagan influence. Now that we have the Holy Spirit to protect us from influence, how do we carry the Gospel to 'pagan' people?
4. Cornelius was God-fearing and obedient, but he was still missing something. What was it that God needed from him in order to be saved? Why do you think God chose this Roman officer?
5. Peter had to 'unlearn' a lifetime of tradition in order to welcome Gentiles into the kingdom. What do you have to unlearn to be truly obedient to God?