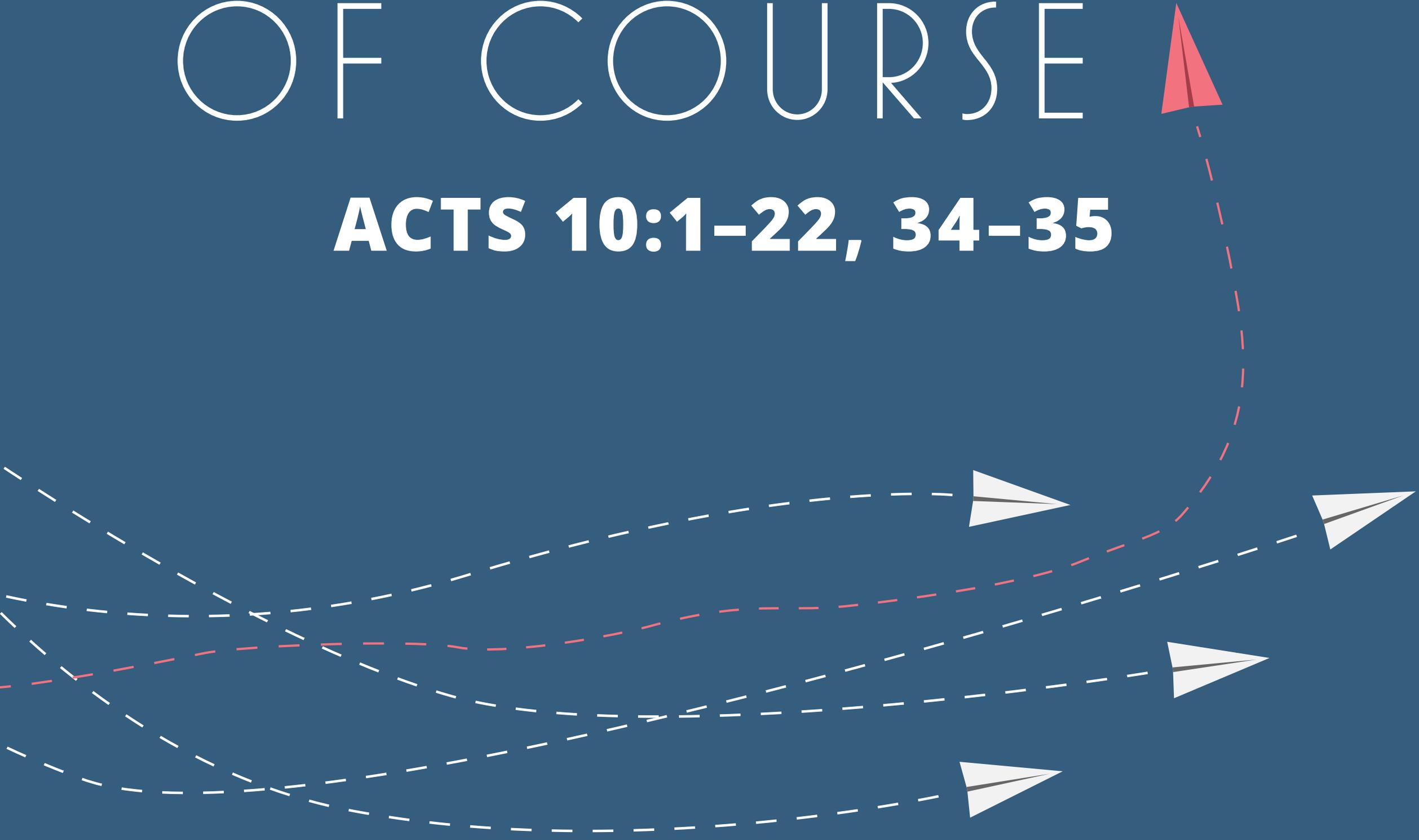


CHANGE, OF COURSE

ACTS 10:1-22, 34-35



In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment. ² He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God. ³ One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said.

⁴ Cornelius stared at him in terror. "What is it, sir?" he asked the angel.

ACTS 10:1-22, 34-35

And the angel replied, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been received by God as an offering!

⁵ Now send some men to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. ⁶ He is staying with Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore.”

⁷ As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier, one of his personal attendants. ⁸ He told them what had happened and sent them off to Joppa.

ACTS 10:1–22, 34–35

⁹The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, ¹⁰ and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. ¹² In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. ¹³ Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them." ¹⁴ "No, Lord," Peter declared. "I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean."

ACTS 10:1-22, 34-35

¹⁵ But the voice spoke again: “Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.”

¹⁶ The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven.

¹⁷ Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean? Just then the men sent by Cornelius found Simon’s house. Standing outside the gate, ¹⁸ they asked if a man named Simon Peter was staying there.

ACTS 10:1–22, 34–35

¹⁹ Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, “Three men have come looking for you. ²⁰ Get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation. Don’t worry, for I have sent them.”

²¹ So Peter went down and said, “I’m the man you are looking for. Why have you come?”

²² They said, “We were sent by Cornelius, a Roman officer. He is a devout and God-fearing man, well respected by all the Jews. A holy angel instructed

ACTS 10:1–22, 34–35

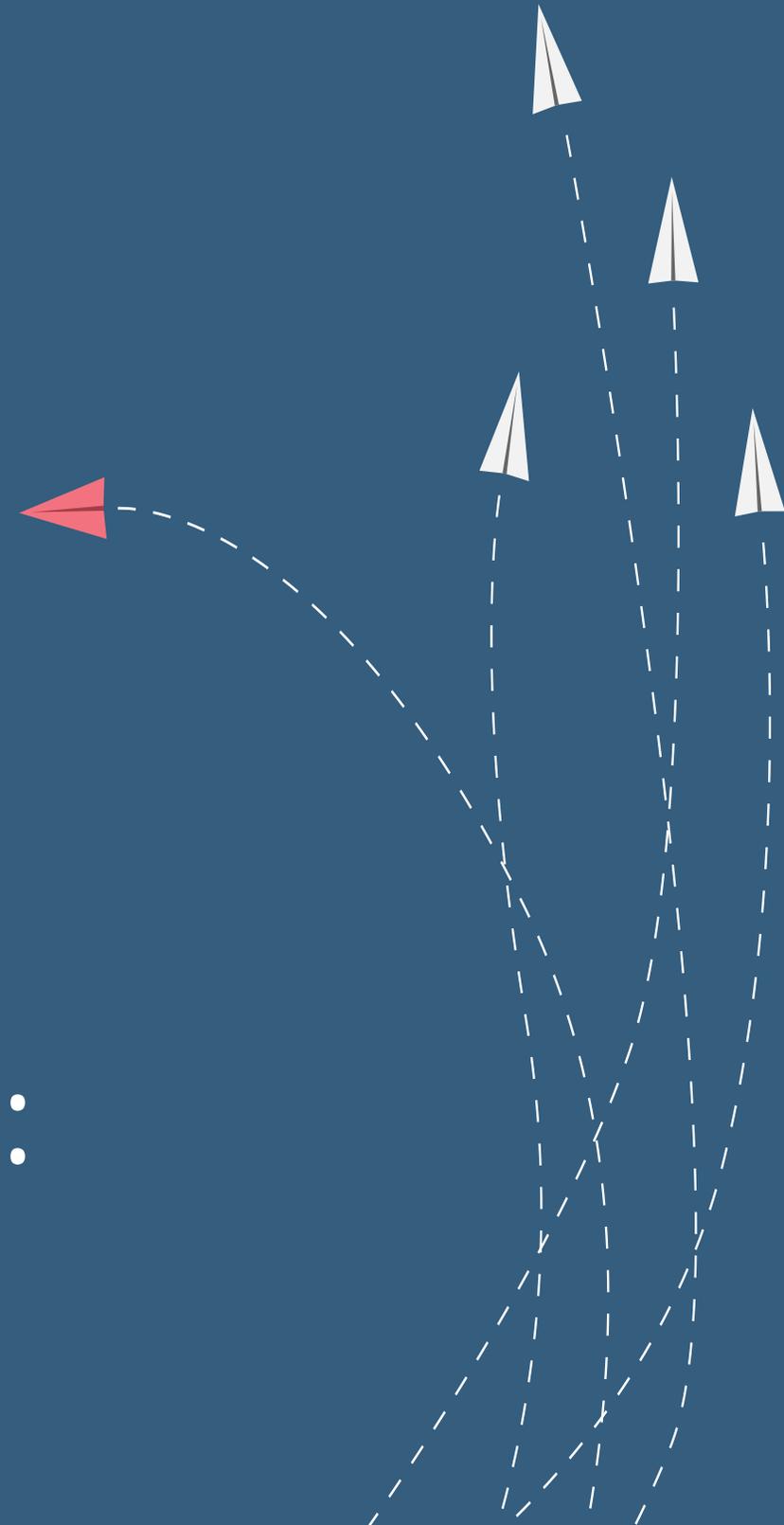
him to summon you to his house so that he can hear your message.”²³ So Peter invited the men to stay for the night. The next day he went with them, accompanied by some of the brothers from Joppa.

³⁴ Then Peter replied, “I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism.³⁵ In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right.

ACTS 10:1–22, 34–35

Consider these changes in America...

- Mortality changes:
- Technology changes:
- Social Changes:
- Informational Changes:
- Morality changes:



Here are some truths that emerge from this story:

1. Sometimes God acts in ways that are outside of my expectations.
2. The most devout followers of God are sometimes the most reluctant to change.
3. We must be willing to lay aside meaningless attitudes and preferences (to get in on what God is doing).



So how can I meet the challenges of a changing world and community?

1. Anticipate change.

“When the rate of change inside an organization is slower than the rate of change outside an organization, the end of that organization is in sight.”

Jack Welch, former CEO of General Electric

2. Keep the main thing, the main thing.

So how can I meet the challenges of a changing world and community?



- 3. Set aside personal preferences.**
- 4. Commit my life to the One who is in control in the midst of change.**

¹⁸ “Do not remember the past events;
pay no attention to things of old. ¹⁹ Look,
I am about to do something new; even
now it is coming. Do you not see it?

ISAIAH 43:18-19

