

THE BARRIER-PIERCING GOSPEL

Acts 10:1-11:18 | Pastor Mike Maslin | July 30, 2023

1. God appears to Cornelius (Acts 10:1-8)
2. God instructs Peter (Acts 10:9-23a)
3. Peter goes to Cornelius (Acts 10:23-48)
4. The church is forever changed. (Acts 11:1-18)

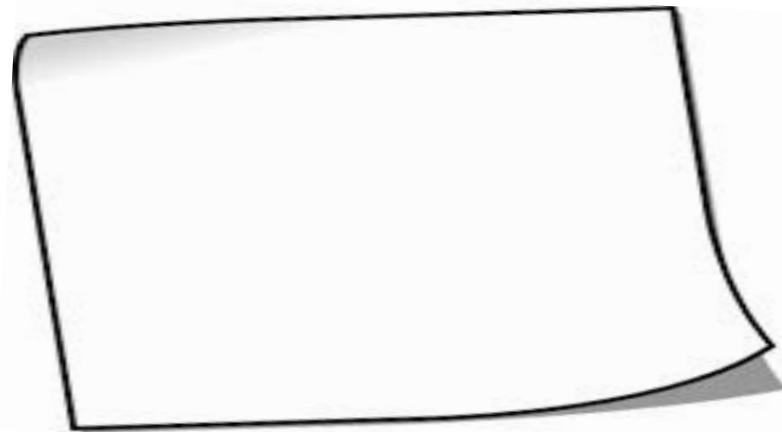
Follow the example of Peter:

- ✓ Self-emptying humility.
- ✓ Seeing all people as worthy recipients of God's love.
- ✓ Inviting others to the platform of grace.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

SUMMARY: In our text, we saw that Peter had to overcome his sense of the unworthiness of Gentiles to receive the gospel. Initially, he rejected God's call to associate with animals which, through Jewish ceremonial law and the build-up of empty tradition, shielded Jews from meaningful outreach to Gentiles, who ate the meat of these animals. Those animals appeared on the sheet God showed to Peter in his dream.

IDENTIFY: On the sheet below, prayerfully identify and write down the names of individuals, or types or groups of people whom you are prone to look down upon and therefore exclude from the Gospel's reach in your life:



PRAY: Ask God to soften your heart for the people on your sheet. Consider the following reflection questions.

1. What is it about the people on your sheet which causes you to exclude them?
2. What might it look like if God, by His grace, changed the lives of people on your sheet?
3. What are some ways that you can cultivate love for these people?