

OUTLINE Acts 10:1-11:18 | Men, Not the Menu

Date: May 4, 2025

Text: Acts 10:1-11:18

WELCOME

I love you.

Open your bibles to: **(Acts 11:15, CSB)**

A. TEXT & INTRO

15... the **Holy Spirit came down on them, just as on us** at the beginning... 17 If, then, **God gave them the same gift that he also gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus [Messiah], how could I possibly hinder God?"**

18 When they heard this they became silent. And **they glorified God**, saying, "So then, God has given **repentance resulting in life even to the Gentiles.**

B. WHO IS CORNELIUS

(Acts 9:43, CSB)

43 Peter stayed for some time **in Joppa** with Simon, a leather tanner.

Joppa is the *same city where the prophet Jonah fled to avoid reaching the gentiles.*

10 There was a man in Caesarea named **Cornelius.**

1) A Centurion

1..a **centurion** of what was called the Italian Regiment.

2) Philo-Semite

2 He did **many charitable deeds for the Jewish people**

3) A God Fearer

2 He was **a devout man and feared God** along with his whole household...**and always prayed to God.**

Jews

- People whose parents or at least their mother are descended from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who worship Yahweh alone

pagan gentiles

- People who do not descend from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who worship all the gods.

proselytes, or “converts”

- Gentiles who undergo conversion via circumcision and the taking on the entire yoke of the Torah.
- These folks are recognized as ethnically and legally Jewish. They didn't change “religion” so much as they changed ethnicity.

“God-fearers”

- Gentiles who are loyal to the God of Israel and the faith of the Torah, *but don't undergo complete conversion via circumcision.*

C. CORNELIUS' PRAYERS & VISION

3 About **three in the afternoon**

- In **Luke 1**,

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist and a priest, is praying and burning incense for the Tamid offering and an angel appears and he's told he will have a son **"filled with the Spirit (v.15)"**

- In **Luke 24**,

Jesus dies at **"the ninth hour"** and **"gives up his Spirit."**

- Into **Acts 2**,

The apostles are praying **"at the third hour"** and God pours out the Spirit on 3,000 Jews.

- Into **Acts 3**,

Pete and John go up to the temple at **"the ninth hour"**, heal the crippled man, & preach the gospel.

- And now here in **Acts 10**, this gentile God fearer Cornelius

Is praying at 3 in the afternoon in concert with the Tamid, and God again responds by sending the Spirit.

3 he distinctly saw in a vision **an angel of God** who came in and said to him, “Cornelius.”

4 Staring at him in awe, he said, “What is it, Lord?”

The angel told him, “**Your prayers and your acts of charity have ascended as a memorial offering before God.**”

(1 Ki 8:39–43, CSB)

...for you alone know **every human heart**,...⁴¹ Even for **the foreigner who is not of your people Israel** but has come from a distant land because of your name—⁴² for they will hear of your great name, strong hand, and outstretched arm, and will **come and pray toward this temple**—⁴³ may you hear in heaven, your dwelling place, and **do according to all the foreigner asks**. Then **all peoples of earth** will know your name, **to fear you as your people Israel do** and to know that **this temple** I have built bears your name.

5 Now send men to Joppa and call for Simon, who is also named Peter.

6 He is lodging with Simon.....

7 When the angel who spoke to him had gone, he called two of his household servants and a **devout** soldier), who was one of those who attended him. 8 After explaining everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

D. PETER'S VISION

9 The next day, as they were traveling and nearing the city, **Peter went up to pray** on the roof about noon

10 He became hungry and wanted to eat, but while they were preparing something, **he fell into a trance.**

11 **He saw heaven opened** and an object that resembled a large sheet coming down, being lowered by its four corners to the earth. 12 In it were (a variety of unclean animals for Jews from Leviticus 11) **all the four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth, and the birds of the sky.**

13 A voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat."

14 **"No, Lord!"** Peter said. "For I have **never** eaten anything **impure and ritually unclean.**"

15 Again, a second time, the voice said to him, **"What God has made clean, do not call impure."** 16 This happened three times, and suddenly the object was taken up into heaven.

17 While Peter was **deeply perplexed** about what the vision he had seen might mean, right away **the men** who had been sent by Cornelius, having asked directions to Simon's house, stood at the gate. 18 They

called out, asking if Simon, who was also named Peter, was lodging there.

19 While ***Peter was thinking*** about the vision (of the animals), ***the Spirit*** (!) ***told him***, “Three (not animals, but) ***men*** are here looking for you. 20 Get up, go downstairs, and go with them ***with no doubts at all***, because I (the Spirit of God) have sent them.”

21 Then Peter went down to the men and said, “Here I am, the one you’re looking for. What is the reason you’re here?”

22 They said, “Cornelius, a (Roman) centurion, ***an upright and God-fearing man, who has a good reputation with the whole Jewish nation***, was divinely directed by a holy angel to call you to his house and to ***hear a message*** from you.”

23 Peter then invited them in and gave them lodging.

The next day he got up and set out with them, and ***some of the brothers*** (so other Jewish disciples) from Joppa went with him. 24 The following day he entered Caesarea.

Now Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. 25 When Peter entered, Cornelius met him, ***fell at his feet, and worshiped him***. 26 But Peter lifted him up and

said, "Stand up. I myself am also a man." 27 While talking with him, he went in and found a large gathering of people.

E. PETER INTERPRETS THE VISION

As he's staring at a room full of gentile faces (the faces of the nations!) eager to hear what he has to say, *the meaning of **the animals** on the sheet become clear to him.*

28 Peter said to them, "You know it's **forbidden** (not according to Torah, but according to certain Pharisaic tradition) for a Jewish man to associate with or visit a foreigner, but **God has shown me** (in a vision of a sheet with all sorts of unclean animals on it) **that I must not call any** (animal?) **person impure or unclean.**

The point of the vision is **NOT THE MENU, BUT MEN!**

29 That's why I came without any objection when I was sent for.

So may I ask why you sent for me?"

30 Cornelius replied, "Four days ago at this hour, at **three in the afternoon**, I was praying in my house. (an angel showed up) 31 and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and **your acts of charity have been remembered in God's sight.** 32 [go get Peter] 33 So I immediately sent for you, and it was good of you to come.

So now we are all in the presence of God to hear everything you have been commanded by the Lord."

F. PETER'S MESSAGE

34 Peter began to speak: "**Now** (because of the whole swirl of events with the vision of the animals) I truly understand that God doesn't show favoritism, (Deuteronomy!) 35 but in **every nation** (Jew or gentile) **the person who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to [God]**

G. GENTILE RESPONSE

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit came down on all those who heard the message.**45 **The circumcised** (Jewish) **believers** who had come with Peter were **amazed** (why?) because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out **even on the Gentiles.**

46 For they heard them **speaking in tongues and declaring the greatness of God.** Then Peter responded, 47 "Can anyone withhold water and prevent these people from being **baptized** (cleansed, made clean and able to approach God in holy space), who have **received the Holy Spirit just as we have?**" 48 He commanded them to **be baptized** in the name of Jesus [Messiah] Then they asked him to stay for a few days.

So it's just like Acts 2, but instead of 3,000 Jews it's around 30 gentiles.

But here's the kicker:

- The apostles baptize them *without requiring circumcision beforehand.*

This household of gentiles is going to inherit eternal life AS GENTILES, not as Jews.

H. THE WAY RESPONDS

(11:1, CSB)

11 The apostles and the brothers and sisters who were throughout

Judea heard that ***the Gentiles had also received the word of God.***

2 When Peter went up to Jerusalem, ***the circumcision party*** (Jewish

believers in Jesus, who fell in line with the tradition that in order to

inherit eternal life, gentiles not only needed to believe the gospel,

but also become Jewish through circumcision) criticized him, 3 saying,

"You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them." 4 Peter began to

explain to them...15 "As I began to speak (to the gentile household), the

Holy Spirit came down on them, ***just as on us*** (Jews) at the beginning.

16 I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, (in Luke 3:16) 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

17 If, then, **God gave them the same gift that he also gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus [Messiah], how could I possibly hinder God?"**

18 When they heard this they became silent. And they glorified God, saying, "So then, God has given **repentance resulting in life even to the Gentiles.**

What Paul will write later is true, the gospel is to the Jew first, but ***also to the gentile.***

I. APPLICATION: BE CORNELIUS

- Love the God of Israel
- Love the scriptures of Israel
- Love the prayers of Israel
- Love the people of Israel
- & do what is right and acceptable to God

If you do this, and respond in faith to the apostolic message, you will be acceptable to God as a gentile.

And you will be part of the nations that come up Zion in the age to come to learn from the Messiah.