

The Global Vision



Acts 10 and the Up-Ending of Our
Preferences & Expectations.

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Acts 10:1-33

Contrary to
misunderstanding, God's
vision was always global.

The global vision of God
has precedent in the Old
Testament and ministry
of Jesus.

Contrary to religious misunderstanding,
God's vision was ALWAYS global.

Genesis 12:3

The Covenant.
In you all the
families of the earth
will be blessed.

Leviticus 19:34

The Command.
The stranger who
resides with you
shall be to you as
the native...

Numbers 35:15

The Protection.
Cities of refuge
made available to
both Israelites and
foreigners.

Deut. 14 / Lev. 23

The Provision.
Mandated inclusion
of foreigners in the
gleaning of fields
and the collection
of tithes.

3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will
curse.
And in you all the families of the earth
will be blessed.”

Genesis 12:3

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34 'The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:34

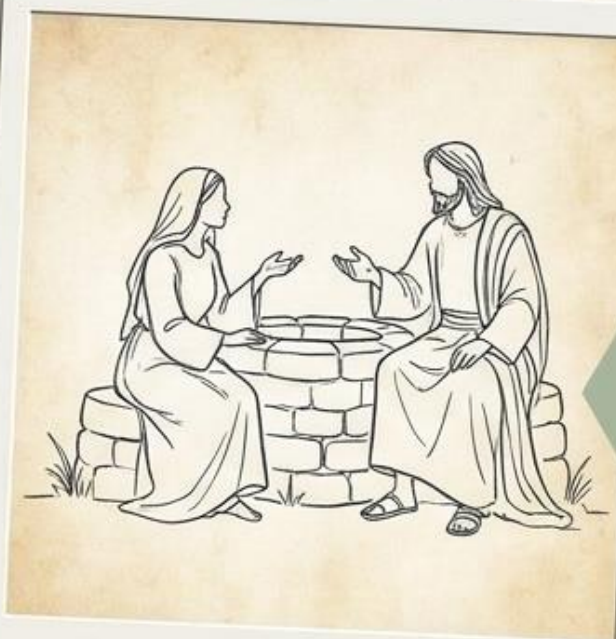
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The Foreshadowing (Glimpses of a Universal Heart)

Jesus crosses strict religious traditions and boundaries of clean/unclean to honor a foreigner's great faith.



**The Syrophoenician Woman
(Matthew 15 / Mark 7)**



**The Woman at the Well
(John 4)**

Jesus reveals His Messiahship and offers Living Water directly to someone outside the accepted religious structure.

The disciples had foreshadowing events of what was to come, but they were not yet fully prepared for **Acts 10**.

21 Jesus went away from there, and
withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon.
22 And a Canaanite woman from that region
came out and began to cry out, saying, “Have
mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my
daughter is cruelly demon-possessed.”

Matthew 15:21–22

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26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of the Syrophoenician race. And she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

Mark 7:26

NASB95

23 But He did not answer her a word.
And His disciples came and implored
Him, saying, “Send her away, because
she keeps shouting at us.”

24 But He answered and said, “I was
sent only to the lost sheep of the house
of Israel.”

Matthew 15:23–24

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27 And He was saying to her, “Let the children be satisfied first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”

Mark 7:27

NASB95

27 But she said, “Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table.”

Matthew 15:27

NASB95

28 But she answered and said to Him,
“Yes, Lord, but even the dogs under
the table feed on the children’s
crumbs.”

Mark 7:28

NASB95

28 Then Jesus said to her, “O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed at once.

Matthew 15:28

NASB95

For Further Study:

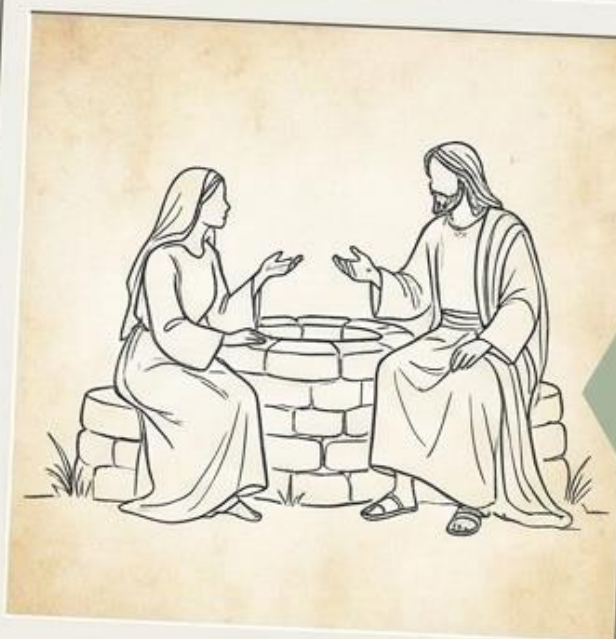
Mark 7 & 8

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9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

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16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

NASB95

“But one thing the Gospel never does is nothing. The Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ refuses to be held at arm’s length with critical detachment. No one judges the gospel. It judges all, and it saves some. We must take this to heart ourselves. Every time we hear the gospel preached, it hardens us a little more, or it softens us a little more, depending on our hearts condition before God. We cannot stay safely the same, as if we were in control...no one is static. No one is not responding to the gospel. Everyone is moving further along one path or the other.”

-Ray Ortland

34 Opening his mouth, Peter said:

“I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,

35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

36 “The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)—

37 you yourselves know the thing which took place throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.

38 “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Acts 10:34–42

NASB95

39 “We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.

40 “God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,

41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.

42 “And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.

Acts 10:34–42

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43 “Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name **everyone** who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Acts 10:43

NASB95

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message.

Acts 10:44

NASB95

45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.
46 For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered,
47 “Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?”

Acts 10:45–47

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The Seal of Approval (Acts 10:44–47)

1. The Declaration

Peter preaches forgiveness to EVERYONE.

2. The Evidence

While Peter is speaking, the Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles. Jewish believers hear them speaking in tongues and exalting God.

3. The Conclusion

Peter declares: Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized...

God provided undeniable proof—the seal of the Holy Spirit—before the religious establishment had time to debate or restrict the movement.

The Pushback of Religiosity



Religious groups often struggle to accept a new move of God because they cannot control it.

Preferences & Expectations

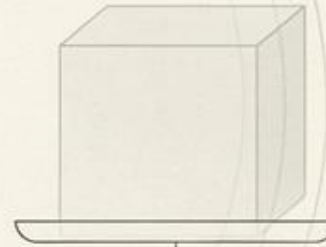
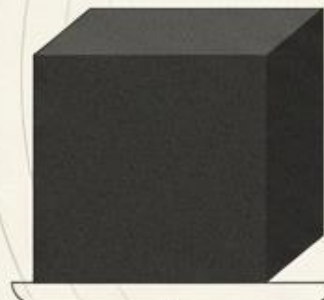
It is not bad/wrong to have
preferences and expectations

The Preference Audit

Think about one thing you count as vital for your faith or your church experience.

Is this a true biblical mandate, or is it a projected personal preference?

Biblical
Mandate



Personal
Expectation

Preferences aren't inherently wrong. They only become dangerous when we begin to worship them, divide over them, or hold negative feelings toward other believers because of them.

As we grow in Christ, our responses shift when the Holy Spirit reveals things in our lives over which He wants to take ownership.

27 Jesus went out, along with His disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He questioned His disciples, saying to them, “Who do people say that I am?”

28 They told Him, saying, “John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; but others, one of the prophets.”

29 And He continued by questioning them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered and said to Him, “You are the Christ.”

30 And He warned them to tell no one about Him.

Mark 8:27–33

NASB95

31 And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 And He was stating the matter plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him.

33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

Mark 8:27–33

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20 “But get up, go downstairs and accompany them **without misgivings**, for I have sent them Myself.”

Acts 10:20

NASB95

28 And he said to them, “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a man who is a Jew to associate with a foreigner or to visit him; and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean. 29 “That is why I came without even raising any objection when I was sent for. So I ask for what reason you have sent for me.”

Acts 10:28-29

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Peter still had preferences and expectations, but He had His mind on God's will above his own. He was surrendered.

The Growth of Peter

	Immature Peter (Mark 8)	Mature Peter (Acts 10)
The Expectation	Expected a conquering Messiah; refused to accept a suffering Savior.	Expected God to speak and move in highly surprising, unconventional ways.
The Posture	Focused on self-preservation, status, and man's interests (Inner circle mentality).	Surrendered, waiting on God, moving sensitively in the Spirit.
The Response	Rebukes Jesus: Objection and resistance.	Obeys immediately without misgivings.

Growth in the Christian life is simply growth in surrender.

Recognizing God Today



Elijah wanted the
Fire/Whirlwind



The Jews wanted
a conquering **Lion**



They demanded
a **Warrior King**



God came in
a **Whisper.**



Jesus came as
the spotless
Lamb.



He arrived as
a **humble Baby.**

God is working in ways we could not have anticipated. It may not look like what we prayed for or preferred. The challenge: Would we recognize Him if He came in ways we didn't desire?

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

Luke 2:25–32

NIV

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all
nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

Luke 2:25–32

NIV

The Simeon Posture

*“Simeon was righteous and devout,
waiting for the consolation of Israel.
When the parents brought in the child
Jesus... Simeon took him in his arms and
praised God.” (Luke 2:25-32)*

Simeon recognized the Salvation of all
nations—a light for the Gentiles—even
when it arrived in the highly
unexpected form of a peasant
baby in the temple courts.

I want to be like Simeon—who recognized Jesus when He came,
even if He comes in a way I don't expect or prefer.

SONG: Preferences

Don't just come how I want You... come how You are.
Don't just come how I'm used to You... come how You are.
I won't worship my preference anymore.

An opportunity for evaluation. An opportunity for repentance.

3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will
curse. And in you all the families of the
earth will be blessed.”

Genesis 12:3

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43 “Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”

Acts 10:43

NASB95

The Global Table

The global vision grounded in the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12) brings us directly to the Communion table today.

The table we approach exists specifically because God chose to up-end human preferences to invite the whole world in.

Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins. — Acts 10:43