

ACTS 10 vs 1

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Dr. Luke, a disciple of Paul, investigated the early church and tells us of a metanoia moment Peter had at the roman capital of Judea, a mixed population of Jewish and Gentiles, about 30 miles north of Jaffa -- old Joppa, modern day Tel Aviv; north, adjacent to Megiddo; not to be confused with Caesarea Philippi, north of Galilee.

¹ **There was a man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion what was called the Italian regiment / he was a roman officer... responsible for 300-600 men,**

² **a man of good sense, who feared God along with all his household / so this roman centurion with his wife and kids... they too had good sense; he was no fool who said in his heart there is no God.**

who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

³ **And about the ninth hour of the day / around 3:00 pm, in the Jewish culture, the time to daily pause and give the evening sacrifice.**

he saw a vision of an angel of God who came in and said to him, Cornelius / and people of the book; should pay attention to these verses, that we might also have a metanoia moment and consider the greatness of God our Father. A citizen of eternity, sent by God -- the Center of all eternity; came saying, **Cornelius /** notice they knew this roman soldier;

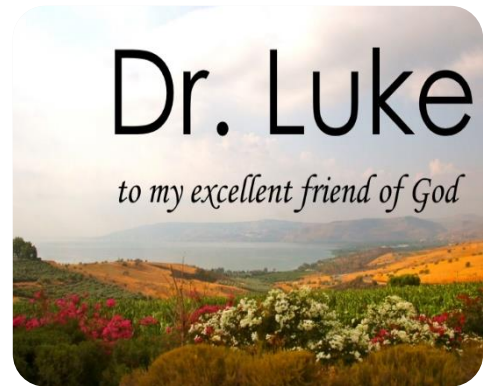
⁴ **And cautiously staring at him, he was seized with fear / emphobos,** he heard his name called and when he looked, this head of a roman cohort was terrified,

and said, What is it, Lord?

And the angel said to him, your prayers and your alms have come as a memorial offering before God / and some in the church might be confused that the angel did not ask: Do you know Jesus? Or, do you know that you are a sinner, repeat after me. No! Not necessary! This one sent by God into this very imperfect world said...Your prayers and your charitable giving are like a sweet-smelling sacrifice before God, and this distinguished military man is not even asked to find another profession.

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

⁶ **he lodges with Simon a tanner; whose house is by the sea: he will tell you what to do.**



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⁷ And when the angel who spoke to Cornelius had gone, he called two of his household servants, and a good sense soldier who waited on him continually – and if you have a difficulty with understanding what this “angel business” is all about, listen to Dr. James Tour, one of the 10 leading scientists in the world today, **listen to his exposition on: the Resurrection of Jesus**,

⁸ and when he declared all these things to them, he **sent** them to Joppa / the 3 men were sent: in Greek: **apostello**, it's the same word used for all the disciples of Jesus; in this case, these 3 apostles were sent by their boss, on a journey to the south, that would take about the whole day to travel.

⁹ In the morning, as they went on their journey and nearing the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray about the sixth hour / around 12 noon; lunch time:

¹⁰ and he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they prepared the food, he **fell into a trance** / so while more people were preparing lunch for Peter; he had an **ekstasis**, used 7 times in the NT; literally, **ek = out + stasis = state**, Peter had an unearthly, amazing visual lesson; it was not a natural event, though it was memorable and never forgotten,

¹¹ And saw heaven opened, and a certain container like a great sheet descended to him, knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth / probably like a familiar sail hoisted on Peter's fishing boat at the sea of Galilee... and Peter is doing his math, putting together in his mind each familiar item, 1 plus 1 plus 1: piece by piece:

¹² in it were all kinds of four-footed animals and reptiles of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air / Peter saw in this Galilean sail descending... lots of critters -- clean and unclean, that Peter knew were named in the Mosaic law.

¹³ And there came a voice to him,

Get up, Peter; kill, and eat / Peter was hungry, and heaven said: GO FOR IT! Have lunch.

¹⁴ But Peter said, Not so, Lord / notice how adverse the response of Peter to the one he walked with every day for years; compared to Cornelius, the roman centurion. How can they both identify the Lord of glory? Yet one responds: **NO, Chief!** While the other who knew Him the least, responds: **Yes, Chief!**

for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean. / Peter should have known, if God says something is clean, take Him at his word.

¹⁵ Again a second time, the voice said to him, **What God has made clean, is not koinoo**...this word suggested a lower status; falling below ordinary standards.



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16 This was done 3 times and the netting was taken up into heaven.

17 Now while Peter asked himself what this vision he saw meant, those men who were sent from Cornelius having asked directions for Simon's house, and stood before the gate / Peter was scratching his head over this incredibly thought provoking lesson, because God has great timing,

18 and they called out, asking if Simon, who was also named Peter lodged there.

19 While Peter thought about the vision the Spirit said to him, Look, three men seek you / and did Peter peeked out the window to see what was all the commotion? And was Peter suddenly scared?

20 So Get up, and go down to them, and go with them, and doubt nothing, for I have sent them.

21 Then Peter went down to the men sent from Cornelius; and said, Here, I am the one you are looking for. Why have you come? what is the reason?

22 And they said, Cornelius a centurion, an upright and God-fearing man, who has a good reputation among the whole Jewish nation,

Cornelius was told by God, directed by a holy angel to call you to his house, and to hear a message from you / to listen to what you have to say.

And you might ask: do you really believe the Lord intervenes in life still today? **Yes!** More frequently than you and I can imagine. One of our good friends for many years, he told about 15 years ago, one morning came a knock at his door. When he opened it, he was surprised to see his brother... so early in the morning, who travelled from another village in his far east country. And to the question: **why are you here?** Came the answer: Last night as I slept, a very pleasant Voice woke me and said: **I am Way; I am Truth; I am Life.** So I asked Him: **Who are you?** He said, **rise up early, and go ask your brother.** He will tell you. Today he is the father of a wonderful family, and a preacher of the Lord Jesus in his very hostile country.

23 Then he called them in and lodged them. And on the morning, Peter went away with them, and certain brothers and sisters from Joppa accompanied him.

24 The following morning, they entered Caesarea. Now while Cornelius was expecting them; he called together his relatives and close friends.



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²⁵ **And as Peter entered, Cornelius met him** / this very godly, very good sensed; upright roman centurion in charge of 300 – 600 tough men,

and fell at his feet, and worshiped him / but Peter knew and never forgot: he was a sinner like the next one, yet he denied knowing His Savior in His greatest hour of need. I bet Cornelius knew he needed a Savior, too; and they both knew their Savior was not found in Rome.

²⁶ **But Peter lifted him up, saying, Stand up; I also am a man.**

²⁷ **And while talking with him, he went in, and found many who had gathered.**

²⁸ **And he said to them, You know how it is an unlawful thing for a Jewish man to keep company or come to one of another nation, but God showed me that I must not call anyone / man or woman common or unclean.** / those who thank God they are not like others, forget we are all from Adam's race; which is why Jesus said, you have heard some lousy teaching that needed correction;

²⁹ **So, I came to you without question, when I was summonsed. So, I ask you, why did you send for me?**

³⁰ **And Cornelius said, Four days ago, I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,**

³¹ **And said, Cornelius, Your prayers and your charitable giving, like a sweet-smelling sacrifice are come before God.**

³² **Therefore send someone to Joppa, and summons Simon here, whose name is also Peter; he lodges in the house of one Simon a tanner by the seaside: who, when he comes, will speak to you / he will tell you what you need to hear.**

³³ **So at once, I called for you; and it was good of you to come. For this reason, we are all here before God, to hear all that is orderly toward God** / this man, and his family and friends... wanted to learn what is proper and in order toward God.

³⁴ **Peter began to speak, and said, Now I truly know that God does not show favoritism:**

³⁵ **but in every nation, the one who fears Him and does what is right, is accepted by Him.**

³⁶ **The message God sent to the Israelites, is to preach the good news of peace through Jesus Christ: He is Lord of all:** / notice, they did not come with angry rants, but preached the peace left us by Jesus.

³⁷ **That message, I say, you know; it was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;**

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³⁸ how God anointed **Jesus of Nazareth** with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about **doing good**, and **healing** all who were oppressed by demons; for God was with Him.

³⁹ And we are eye-witnesses because of all that He did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem whom they killed and hung on a tree:

⁴⁰ **God** raised Him up the third day, and showed publicly;

⁴¹ not to all the people, but to eye-witnesses chosen before God / to over 600 or 700 people, even to us, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.

⁴² He also declared for us **to preach** to the people and **to testify** that **He is** the One appointed by God **to be Judge of the living and the dead**.

⁴³ All the prophets give witness about Him, that **through His name whoever believes in Him** will receive forgiveness of sins.

➡ ⁴⁴ **While Peter yet spoke these words**, the Holy Spirit fell on all of them who heard the word / the Spirit lovingly and powerfully embraced them, too.

⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were amazed, those who came with Peter reconsidered what God was doing in their midst, because on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit.

⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with various dialects, and magnify God. Then Peter responded,

⁴⁷ Can anyone forbid water, that these should **not** be baptized, who already received the Holy Spirit as we did?

⁴⁸ And he **orderly** baptized them in the name of the Lord / notice it doesn't mention if they were sprinkled or dunked, 3 times forward or 2 times backward; in the house of Cornelius... or at the shoreline... because Peter knew what John the Baptist said: when Jesus baptizes someone, anyone... He will baptize with fire and the Spirit.

Then they asked him to stay with them longer.

