

WORD

¹¹ . . . the heavens opened and something like a great sheet [descended], being let down by its four corners upon the earth. ¹²In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." ¹⁵And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common." **ACTS 10:11-15**

(Read also **ACTS 10.**)

In Jewish culture, there are some "unclean" animals, which they are not allowed to eat. In this story, Peter received a vision that told him to eat both "clean" and "unclean" animals. The voice in the vision told him, "*What God has made clean, do not call common.*" Peter realized the Lord meant that the gospel was for both Jews and Gentiles, which the apostles did not know at the time. We, even though we are Gentiles, can also have mindsets that prevent us from preaching the gospel. However, we need to remember that apart from the gospel, we are all lost, and we might not have heard the gospel if someone had not preached it to us. From this, we see two commands from God that apply to all people, in all circumstances.

1 Go to the lost.

³⁴So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." **ACTS 10:34,35**

Right after Peter received that vision, messengers came to bring him to someone called Cornelius. Cornelius was a Roman centurion, commanding 100 soldiers. More importantly, he was a Gentile, or non-Jew. However, Cornelius was a *devout man who feared God*, praying and giving to the poor. Peter, because of the vision, realized that *God shows no partiality*. He realized that we have no reason not to go to anyone who is lost. What are some fears and prejudices that stop us from reaching out to the lost? How does Peter's vision correct that for us?

.....

.....

.....

2 Preach the gospel.

⁴²"And he commanded 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. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." **ACTS 10:42,43**

When Peter and the apostles first started preaching, they only spoke to the *Men of Israel* (Acts 2:22), meaning only to the Jews. However, the vision of the animals helped Peter realize that when Jesus told them to *go and make disciples of all nations*, He meant the gospel should be preached to everyone. Sometimes we struggle with preaching the gospel because we have our own mindsets about the people we should go to. However, Christ's commands are clear. There is no reason not to go to the lost, and, as Christians, we have no choice but to obey Christ and preach the gospel. Who preached the gospel to you, and how did you come to know God? How have you learned to tell others about Christ?

.....

.....

.....