

## Acts 10:1-22 YES LORD!

### How open are you to change?

Blessed are the flexible.....NOT BROKEN

**A)I don't like Change – like my routines – Order the same thing**

**B)I like when things make sense – I like my life that way and I like my God that way!**

1) I like it when **God is predictable** – when He acts a certain way and I sense a Pattern

**C)But God is rarely predictable** – He rarely responds in the same way in the same situation

In fact there are times when He completely stirs the Pot!

D)God would say to us: Don't try to put me in a Box!

**Today we are going to look at an event in the life of the Apostle Peter where God radically Rocks His world- God really stirs the Pot.**

A)God challenges Peter's previous thinking – because God wants to open Peter up to a whole new possibilities

**B)whole new World – to see pp from a completely different Perspective.**

**C)In this chapter we will see Peter resist – argue –wrestle w/ God but ultimately surrender**

1)and **2,000 yrs later the events of Acts 10** have a huge impact on our lives!

**We noted in our study last time how God had divinely Choreographed Peter's steps to get him to Joppa – Now we are going to see why!**

**RD V.1- 8**

## **Our Story starts with a man named CORNELIUS**

**A) Cornelius was a noncommissioned officer of the Roman army. A Centurion .**

**B)The Roman army was divided into legions of six thousand men.**

1)The legions were divided into cohorts of six hundred men.

**C)The cohorts were divided into six groups of one hundred men—each overseen by a centurion.**

1)Centurions were the “master sergeants” of the Roman army.

**D)They were brave of heart, sound of mind, and strong in discipline.**

**Interesting, every time a centurion is mentioned in the New Testament, he is always spoken of in a favorable light....**

A)It was a centurion in Luke 7 who caused Jesus to marvel at his great faith when he said, **“I am not worthy for You to come under my roof. Just speak the word and my servant will be healed”** ( Luke 7:6, 7).

B)There was centurion at the Cross in Matthew 27, who, upon witnessing the crucifixion of Jesus and the events that followed said, **“Truly this was the Son of God”**

**C)And here is Cornelius—yet another centurion whom God will use.**

**Notice how he is described: V.2**

A) **A devout man, and one that feared God...**

**B)Here we see the faith of Cornelius. Cornelius feared God. Religious reverence.**

**C )This is amazing to me. .•”** As a typical Roman Panthesitc he had been

exposed to the Pantheon Roman gods—Jupiter, Augustus, Mars, Venus, etc.—but found they were not real and could do nothing for him.

D) While stationed in Palestine, he had been exposed to the enlightened concepts of Judaism and had become devoutly monotheistic.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> ...with all his house...**

A) Somehow he was able to convince his family to forsake the gods of Rome!

B) Seek the true and living God!

**C) 3<sup>rd</sup> we see the fervency of Cornelius as he went about doing good and praying always.**

**There are those who say, “Even though a person doesn’t know Jesus Christ, as long as he loves God and does good to his fellow man, he’ll be okay.”**

**A) But this account tells me they are wrong, for if all it took for a man to get into heaven was that he loved God and his fellow man,**

**B) Cornelius would have been the Poster Person of that type of theology.**

**C) God would have said, “There’s Cornelius down there. He’s a pray-er. He’s a God-fearer. He’s a giver. I’ll let him be.”**

**D) That’s not what God said.**

1) Instead, Acts 10 is the story of a seeking Savior searching out a seeking sinner.

**God sends an Angel to Corn. In a vision - who tells him to send men to Joppa to get Peter!**

**A) Why didn’t the Angel share JESUS with Him?**

B)Because it is not the job of angels to share the gospel. 1)It's ours.

**C)God could thunder the gospel from heaven if He so desired.**

1)But He's chosen to use you and me as instruments to tell people His good news.

**D)His Love / forgiveness / Salvation –**

**Daniel 12:3 says “those who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever.”**

**A)If you're a soul-winner, a Good News-sharer, you're going to shine—not only in heaven, but here on earth as well.**

B)Good news Share – it – Invigorating !

**C)So Cornelius is told to send for Peter – why Peter?**

1)God is doing something significant here

**Peter was heir to a strong tradition of prejudice that went clear back to Abraham**

A)A prejudice that was exemplified in men like Jonah, who resisted bearing witness to the Gentiles

B)and then was actually angry with God when the Ninevites repented and escaped judgment.

**C)During Peter's time, Jewish midwives were forbidden to aid a Gentile woman in childbirth, to avoid helping propagate Gentile scum.**

D)The tradition-minded Hebrew called Gentiles (“•the nations•”) and spat that word out with intense contempt.

**This attitude was still prevalent even in the Hebrew-Christian**

## **community.**

A) Ten years prior to the events of this chapter, Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature! Matthew 28:19-20

**B) The Apostles must have wondered – did ALL REALLY MEAN ALL - even the Gentiles.**

1) The tradition minded Jew was taught that Gentiles were only good for one thing – to fuel the fires of Hell!

## **C) Never GOD'S HEART**

1) The prophets—particularly Isaiah—proclaimed very clearly that **Israel** was to be a light to the Gentiles and that God would bless the people of Israel in order that Gentiles might see the benefits of walking with Him (Isaiah 42:6; 49:6).

**D) Through all their traditions the Jewish people lost sight of that!**

**E) Jesus in Mark 7 rebuked the religious leaders for allowing their traditions to take precedence over the Word.**

**Unfortunately this attitude was still alive in the early Church– so that 10 years after the cross the Christian movement remained distinctly Jewish.**

But that was about to Change: **read v. 9-22**

**So Peter is in the seaside town of Joppa.**

**A) It's a pretty day. A gentle breeze is blowing in off the ocean. He goes on the roof top to Pray!**

**B) Quiet place, quiet time, quiet heart – often key to hearing the Lord.**

**C) So I can relate to Peter here – I often find that anywhere by the ocean is a good place for me to pray!**

**D)I can also relate to what happens next – Peter is praying – he gets hungry –**

1)it is lunch time and his stomach is growling -

**E)So hungry he falls into this sort of half sleep half trance thing – and that is when he has this vision that is going to rock his world.**

**Suddenly the heavens open and a picnic blanket descends from the sky.**

**A)All kinds of incredible edibles are on the menu. “*Wild beasts, creepy things, birds of the air*” are the featured entrees.**

B)But all these tasty entrees fly in the face of everything Peter was taught by his religion he could consume.

1)And then Peter is really confused when he hears God say:, “**Rise, Peter; kill and eat.**”

**C)Background to understand the significance of this:**

**Jewish dietary laws were the epitome of their *religion*.**

**In the first century, Jews and Gentiles were separated by pedigree, circumcision, Sabbath worship – but above all, they were defined by diet.**

**A)A *kosher Jew* was religiously superior to a *non-kosher Gentile*.**

**B)And that *kosher Jew* would never in a million years pull up to a table-full of *God-forbidden food*.**

1)Nor would he eat with folks who occupied the table.

**C)But kosher laws were part of a bigger picture.**

1)God had conditioned Israel to approach life in a certain manner.

**All of life was to be DIVIDED as *clean and unclean – holy and unholy - pure and impure – acceptable to God and unacceptable to God.***

**A) This distinction was a grid that went over every dimension of life - food, sacrifice, washing, houses, even people.**

**B) The Jewish Law provided them a means to differentiate, good from bad.**

**C) And Kosher Jews were reminded at every single mealtime that there was such a thing as right and wrong – holy and unholy.**

1) Good guys ate “*clean*” foods. Bad guys ate the “*dirty birds.*”

**So it is understandable why Peter at first found the the VISION revolting—and the command to kill and eat shocked him even more!**

**A) Nothing un Kosher had ever touched his lips that is why he balked at such an unholy smorgasbord!**

**B) His protest was understandable in the light of his upbringing.**

1) Any serious Jew would have reacted in the same way.

**C) When God told Peter to eat these non-kosher foods it was as if 1500 years of tradition, and the Law of Moses, 1) and a thousand rabbis, and his entire Jewish family was screaming in Peter’s ear to ask for another menu.**

**And of course Judaism didn’t end with diet...**

**A) It did such a thorough job identifying good from bad, by the time you’d subjected your life to the entire Mosaic Law**

**you had to conclude with Paul in the first few chapters of his letter to the Romans that none of us are righteous, no, not one.**

**B) An honest OT Jew was forced to an uncomfortable conclusion.**

1) Everybody is a bad guy. In the ranks of humanity there are no good guys.

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**C) This is why Christianity picks up where Judaism leaves off.**

1) We say this all the time, but without its full implications hitting us...

*Christianity is not about religion – and that's true.*

**D) Christianity is about *salvation* – not *religion*. About RELATIONSHIP**

**E) The Gospel declares that we're all bad guys. There's only one good guy - His name is Jesus.**

1) And the goal of Christianity is to bring everybody to Jesus.

F) Today, the line in the sand for the entire human race is no longer the *FOOD* we put in our mouths... but the *Grace-giver* who lives in our hearts!

**Here's what's happening in Peter's vision, God is putting an end to *religion*.**

A) He's replacing it with *salvation*. { relationship

**B) Judaism was religion. *It was God's religion – it was perfect religion - but it was still religion.***

1) Its purpose was to reveal man's need of a savior!

**C) God puts religion on the shelf, and He chooses a new tool to deal with man.**

1) Grace that is available through Jesus Christ

**D) This is why next to the Day of Pentecost, this story in Acts 10-11 is the**

## most important moment in the history of the Church.

Been said

“Never has so much theology been worked out over one lunch hour.”

So Peter responds to God’s command to , *“Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”* With the ultimate oxymoron, **NOT SO LORD?**

A)Not so pal – not so Son – Not so Dude – Not so Lord! - **THAT DOESN’T COMPUTE**

B)Peter was wrestling with his tradition, his training and with **HIS CONSCIENCE.**

C)From birth, Peter’s conscience had been drilled to keep kosher.

1)This wasn’t a simple preference - but a deeply-held matter of conscience.

D)Our conscience is an organ we train to act on cue. The conscience is taught by *truth or tradition.*

1)It can fight against the Holy Spirit, or be His ally.

E) Peter needs to surrender his conscience to the Lordship of Jesus.

**A sovereign God is stepping out of the box, and he’s recruiting Peter to step out with Him.**

A)From that pt on Life with God would be about Grace

B)It’s vital we *believe in grace*, but it’s just as vital, if not more so, that we *practice grace.*

1)We need to live it out.

C)This is why God tells Peter in verse 7, *“Rise, Peter; kill and eat.”* He’s

preparing him for a knock on the door...

**D) Peter is about to be challenged to act on what He's been shown about God's grace.**

1) The future of the Church hangs on his reaction.

**He responds he surrenders and next time see what God does**

**Here is what I want you to take note of today in closing:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Even though this was against Peter's tradition- God's instruction to Peter was in line with His word.**

**A) It was a part of the new Cov – came thru Christ!**

**B) Any time we sense God moving us to do something new we need to make sure it doesn't contradict his word.**

**C) Should always correspond with – His Word!**

**2<sup>nd</sup> God was about to do a whole new thing in the Church.**

**A) But in order for Peter to be a part of this new fresh outpouring of God's Spirit.**

**B) He had to be willing to say YES LORD!**

1) Same thing is true for us!

**C) We have to be willing to tell God – Lord you can shake me out of my comfort zone.**

1) You can break up my routine – you can do something fresh.

**D) That might mean stepping out in faith – Ministry, Mission field, Job Change – what ever.**

**E)But the key to you experiencing a fresh outpouring of God's Spirit in to say – Yes Lord!**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sometimes saying Yes Lord can be extremely hard because it means embracing something very difficult.**

**A)It means saying to a Sov. God – Even though I don't understand this at all.**

**B)Even though it makes no sense to me and everything in me wants to scream NO LORD**

**1)I WILL SAY YES!**

**C)Because I trust in you: Your love, your grace  
Your Sov – your Character.**

**Like Job you can say: Though you slay me still I will praise you.**

**A)I heard Greg Laurie preach on this Chapter – not long after his Son Christopher was killed.**

**B)Greg said this: Peters words took on new meaning.  
NOT SO LORD.**

**C)Greg said – He found himself saying to God – I don't like this one bit!**

**1)I wouldn't have chosen this in million yrs for my son or my family.**

**D)God No! –I don't like this – but I do trust you – your Love, grace,  
character, Sov, your will**

**1)So Lord I say Yes**

**A good friend of ours Karen Stewart went home to be with Jesus  
Thursday – 2yr battle**

**A)BED SIDE – PRECIOUS TIME {left us.**

**B) Earlier this year Denise and I met Jeff and Karen for lunch in Temecula**

**C) As we were talking – Jeff said – when we heard the cancer was terminal – praying – 2 yrs prayed healed**

**1) Thousands around the world praying**

**D) Not getting better – getting Worse – God had a different plan – NO LORD**

**1) Came to a place – YES LORD – YOUR WILL**

**Adopted this attitude: We are not going to sit around waiting for Karen to die – we are going to live!**

**A) Live is what they did – Ministry – trips**

**B) FAMILY CAMP!**

**C) Last 6 months they impacted more pp – for Jesus than maybe in their entire lives**

**Here is how I want to encourage you today:**

**A) Instead of waiting for something that might not happen to happen – Live! – Say yes Lord**

**B) Single Yes Lord to singleness**

**C) Your career choice – YES LORD**

**D) Marriage – YES LORD**

**E) Financial situation – YES LORD**

**F) Ministry opportunity – YES LORD**

## **EMBRACE YOU – YOUR WILL FOR ME!**

Our lives Sometimes it is hard to say Yes Lord

Greg Laurie – No Lord –

Jeff Stewart – No Lord

Heal – God doesn't always respond the way we think He should