

JESUS IS FOR EVERYONE!

Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths. **Psalm 25:4**

All the prophets testify about him that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins. **Acts 10:43**

Have you ever traveled to another country for work or maybe for a mission trip? Did you go to church while you were there? Did you experience the thrill of realizing that the people in this church may speak a different language, dress differently, or have different cultural customs, but they still worship the same Jesus that you do? They have experienced His wondrous grace and forgiveness. They sing beautiful praises to His name.

It's easy for anyone to only focus on the place they live. But the passage we will study today has an important truth for us to embrace. Our language, skin color, customs, or location have no bearing on the love Jesus shows us. Jesus is truly for everyone.

Today's passage teaches this truth as Peter takes the gospel message to a Gentile audience. The message that Peter preached was no different from the message he and John preached to the Jewish temple goers and religious leaders. Let's look at Acts 10

JESUS IS FOR PEOPLE LIKE CORNELIUS! Which is the first person we meet in today's study is Cornelius.

1. There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian *band*, **(He was a military leader over approximately 100 men for Rome in Caesarea, which was a Jewish region.)** 2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always. **(Even though he was a Gentile he did many charitable things for the Jews.)** 3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. 4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, **Thy prayers and thine**

alms are come up for a memorial before God. ⁵ And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: ⁶ He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner (**A Tanner was a Gentile in the 21st century, he was someone that worked with animal hides, which was considered an unclean profession.**) whose house is by the sea side: **he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.**

⁷ And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually; ⁸ And when he had declared all these things unto them, **he sent them to Joppa.** Acts 10:1-8 (KJV)

At this point, many Jews believed that salvation was only for them. But God's Word says differently!

²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. ²⁹ *Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles?* Yes, of the Gentiles also: ³⁰ Seeing *it is one God*, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith. Romans 3:28-30 (KJV)

Cornelius' encounter with the angel of the Lord shows that God chose to reach out to Gentiles and not just Jews. This was true then and it is true today.

JESUS IS FOR PEOPLE LIKE PETER!

⁹ On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: **Our story shifts and we are reintroduced to Peter. This is the same Peter who walked on water, who was restored by Jesus after denying Him three times, and who later boldly proclaimed the gospel message to a Jewish audience**

¹⁰ And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, ¹¹ And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: ¹² Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts,

and creeping things, and fowls of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him, **Rise, Peter; kill, and eat.** ¹⁴ But Peter said, Not so, **(No!)** Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. ¹⁵ And the voice spake unto him again the second time, **What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.** ¹⁶ This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

God used this vision to communicate the truth that the gospel message is for both Jews and Gentiles. He told Peter, “What God has made clean, do not call impure” (Vs 15)

¹⁷ Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, ¹⁸ And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. ¹⁹ **While Peter thought on the vision,** the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. ²⁰ **Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.** ²¹ Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? **Acts 10:9-21 (KJV)**

We would all most likely agree that Peter's resumé for following Jesus through the twists and turns of life was rather extensive. This vision, however, shows the fact that Jesus was not done with Peter yet. Peter still had growing to do, and he still had work to do. If you are like Peter and have an extensive history with Jesus, you need to understand that Jesus is still for you. If you are more like Cornelius and are new to the faith, Jesus is still for you. No matter who you resemble more, you can rest assured that Jesus is for you.

JESUS IS FOR PEOPLE LIKE OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

As the story continues, we find the gospel message being preached to Cornelius' friends and family members. Jesus is for our friends and family too.

²² And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee. ²³ Then called he them in, and lodged *them*. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴ And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends. ²⁵ And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped *him*.

²⁶ But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; **I myself also am a man.**
²⁷ And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

²⁸ And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; **but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.** ²⁹ Therefore came I *unto you* without gainsaying (**without raising any objection.**), as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent 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, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. ³² Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of *one* Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. ³³ Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are **we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. Acts 10:22-33 (KJV)**

Peter traveled to Joppa with those Cornelius sent because the Holy Spirit told Peter to do so. Peter obeyed God's calling. Peter asked Cornelius why he sent for Peter. When he heard what the angel told

Cornelius, things clicked for Peter. He said, “Now I truly understand that God doesn’t show favoritism”.

³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: **Acts 10:34 (KJV)**

This must have been a shocking experience for Peter. He had been taught that it was “forbidden/unlawful for a Jewish man to associate with or visit a foreigner” (**Acts 10:28**). God’s calling, however, showed that God does not show favorites, and Peter was striving to be obedient to God’s call to take the gospel to all Nations! (**Matt 28:18-20**)

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¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish**, but have everlasting life. **John 3:16 (KJV)**