



God Even Includes YOU!

Acts 10:7-23 | Mark Foreman | May 31, 2026

✧ Two Men, Two Visions, One Big-Hearted God (vv. 1-16)

- Cornelius sees himself as an unworthy outsider. Peter sees himself as a worthy insider and Gentiles as unworthy outsiders.
- Mission drift and “hardening of the categories” is sadly normal: from outreach, inclusion and mercy we move to in-reach, exclusion, self-rightness judgment.
- God confronts both men’s categories.

✧ The Spirit Confronts Our Restricted Lenses (vv. 9-16)

- Peter’s wrestling is the same as ours. It takes us awhile.
 - What does a Jew do with dietary laws, ceremonial and cleansing laws?
 - Peter is limited in his understanding of God, confusing orthodox theology and cultural tradition.
 - God is not simply changing Peter’s diet, he is changing his understanding of God and Peter’s own heart.
- God accepts Gentiles who were considered “unclean”
- What does a Christian do with someone who is different?
- Our limited lenses are both cultural and personal.
- If Jesus is truly Lord, “surely not, Lord,” cannot be our answer.

✧ The Spirit of Jesus Pushes Us Outward (vv. 34- 35)

- While Peter is still speaking, the Spirit falls.
- Great spiritual leaders can still be wrong (27-29).
- God has always wanted a church without walls.

✧ This Has Been the Heart of God All Along

- Think of the OT unexpected heroes.
- Think of the NT unexpected heroes.
- Think of the unexpected heroes of church history.
- Here is the good news – God even includes YOU!

✧ Taking It Home

- This is the fulfillment of Israel’s Ancient Calling in Genesis 12.
- Jewish outward practices (dietary and external) were symbolic & covenantal, not moral and spiritual. They were symbols. This helps Christians appreciate different outward expressions in various denominations.
- We are continually surprised by God’s grace (Samaritans, Gentiles, Hippies, people of differing political views, etc.).
- Am I the measure of the Kingdom of God? Am I focusing on truth or being right?
- The Moravian’s slogan was, “In essentials unity, in nonessentials freedom and in everything love.”
- Who have you prejudged as being restricted from the Kingdom of God?