

# ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

---

## Study 23: Overcoming our Prejudices

**READ** Acts 10:1-33 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Chapter 10 of Acts is known by some as the most important chapter in all of Scripture. For the first time the gospel, that was set within the boundaries of Judaism, breaks free and reaches into the lives of Gentiles. In this dramatic portion of Scripture the Apostle Peter is called to overcome his prejudice toward Gentiles and, as the primary leader of the church, sanction God's acceptance of them through the gospel.

**Big idea:** We all have prejudices that Christ must overcome if we are to embody the gospel and be effective in our service for Him

### Questions:

1. What do you think it means to show prejudice or partiality? What are some ways in which people show prejudice to other people, especially among Christians?  
  
Why is this contrary to the character of God? See Rom 2:11; Acts 10:34; Job 34:19.
2. Who was Cornelius and what was it that recommended him to God (see 13:26)?
3. Why do you think the angel told Cornelius to seek Peter instead of either telling Cornelius the gospel message or calling on someone closer to share the good news (such as Philip who may have been living in Caesarea, Acts 21:8-9)?

4. In Peter's vision what did the unclean animals represent (v. 28)? How did the coming of the gospel break the divide between Jew and Gentile? (see Gal 3:28-29; Eph 3:6)
5. All of us have a propensity to slip back into showing prejudice towards others, even Peter. Later Paul confronts Peter over his hypocrisy in this area (Gal 2:11-14) and tells him that his actions were "not in step with the truth of the gospel" (Gal 2:14). What did Paul mean and what do you learn from this?
6. What things can help us to live consistently with the gospel, especially in the area of prejudice?
7. Because Peter overcame his prejudice towards Cornelius and his household what was the result (v. 33)? How was this the fulfillment of a greater plan (Gen 12:1-4; Is 60:1-3; Matt 8:5-13; John 10:16)?
8. What are some culturally or socioeconomically different people or groups that the Lord might want you to reach with the gospel? What might be the next step?

### STOP AND PRAY:

**Praise:** *Jesus for leaving the glory of Heaven and entering into our world to save us*

**Thank:** *God that the gospel is the only antidote to every kind of prejudice*

**Pray:** *that God would show you your prejudices and help you put them to death*