



CHANGED PEOPLE

*ACTS*

CHANGING THE WORLD











<sup>1</sup> In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment. <sup>2</sup> He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God. (Acts 10:1-2 NLT)



# Cornelius

1. A Roman Centurion
2. A leader in the Italian Cohort
3. A wealthy Gentile
4. A God-Fearer
5. An active faith in YHWH

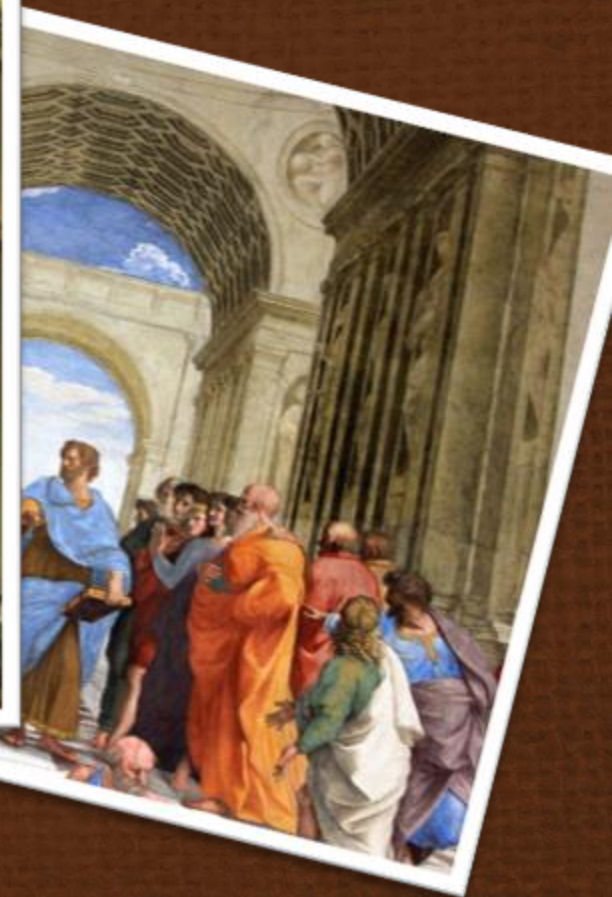




<sup>3</sup> One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said. <sup>4</sup> Cornelius stared at him in terror. "What is it, sir?" he asked the angel. And the angel replied, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been received by God as an offering! <sup>5</sup> Now send some men to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter.

<sup>6</sup> He is staying with Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore.” <sup>7</sup> As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier, one of his personal attendants. <sup>8</sup> He told them what had happened and sent them off to Joppa. (Acts 10:3-8 NLT)







<sup>9</sup> The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, <sup>10</sup> and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. <sup>11</sup> He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice said to him, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat them."



<sup>14</sup> “No, Lord,” Peter declared. “I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean.” <sup>15</sup> But the voice spoke again: “Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.” <sup>16</sup> The same vision was repeated three times. Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven. <sup>17</sup> Peter was very perplexed. What could the vision mean? Just then the men sent by Cornelius found Simon’s house.



Standing outside the gate, <sup>18</sup> they asked if a man named Simon Peter was staying there. <sup>19</sup> Meanwhile, as Peter was puzzling over the vision, the Holy Spirit said to him, “Three men have come looking for you. <sup>20</sup>

Get up, go downstairs, and go with them without hesitation. Don’t worry, for I have sent them.” <sup>21</sup> So Peter went down and said, “I’m the man you are looking for. Why have you come?” (Acts 10:9-20 NLT)



<sup>24</sup> They arrived in Caesarea the following day. Cornelius was waiting for them and had called together his relatives and close friends. <sup>25</sup> As Peter entered his home, Cornelius fell at his feet and worshiped him. <sup>26</sup> But Peter pulled him up and said, “Stand up! I’m a human being just like you!” <sup>27</sup> So they talked together and went inside, where many others were assembled.



<sup>28</sup> Peter told them, “You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean.  
<sup>29</sup> So I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. Now tell me why you sent for me.” (Acts 10:24-29 NLT)



So I sent for you at once, and it was good of you to come. Now we are all here, waiting before God to hear the message the Lord has given you.” (Acts 10:33 NLT)



<sup>44</sup> Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the message. <sup>45</sup>

The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. <sup>46</sup> For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God. Then Peter asked,



47 “Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?” 48 So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterward Cornelius asked him to stay with them for several days. (Acts 10:44-48 NLT)



If we're not aware and dismantling  
our personal biases and prejudices  
we may miss out on being used by  
God to change the world.



How might our personal bias or even  
our prejudices towards others keep  
us from ministering to the ones God  
is calling us to?



Remember who our Lord is,  
remember who we follow.



- (1) Ask God to reveal any areas of resistance
- (2) Repent of our biases
- (3) Start praying for those people
- (4) Find a way to go towards them



God wants you to be a part of this,  
do you want to be a part of this?