

## The Adventure Begins

Acts 9:11-18 Ananias' vision and God's omnipresence<sup>1</sup>.

Acts 10:1-7 Cornelius' spiritual sacrifices<sup>2</sup> are acceptable as an offering to God.

Acts 10:9-22 Peter's vision, contradictory to OT Law

Acts 10:24-48 Peter's interpretation & the harvest of the Holy Spirit

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**Is Ananias surprised to hear the voice of the Lord?** Would you be surprised?

1. Ananias converses with the Lord about his objection on who is in need of healing!
  - a. Notice the preconceived idea that Saul is not worthy.(9:13-14)
  - b. Notice God's opportunity to cast purpose into why Saul was chosen. (9:15)
  - c. Notice Ananias' faithfulness. (9:17-18)

**Why did Jesus pick Cornelius as first among Gentiles?** What does it mean to be pleasing to God?

1. Cornelius' worship of God (following Jewish custom) was in spirit and in truth!
  - a. Notice that the Angel is specific in some sense and very vague in another.
    - i. Specific with directions to find Simon who is called Peter
    - ii. Vague about why Peter is to come
  - b. Notice Cornelius' faithfulness despite the unknown. (10:7-8)

**Why did God seemingly contradict himself in Peter's vision?** Is your prejudice blinding you?

1. Becomes relevant and meaningful only later... remains a puzzle to Peter!
  - a. Notice that Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision.
  - b. Notice the Spirit's prompting to go with the men.
  - c. Notice God's timing (arrival of the three men from Cornelius' house).

**How did Peter's obedience help him interpret the vision?** What is our role in the adventure?

1. Just like OT times, its through progressive revelation... have faith and God will provide!
  - a. Notice Peter's statement about "God does not show favoritism".(10:34-35)
  - b. "The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles." (10:45)

Can you see beyond the "scarlet letters" of those in need of the gospel? Is anything in your way (fear, pre-judgment or sloth<sup>3</sup>)? Can you see the hurt of others through the eyes of Jesus' heart? Will you take up your cross daily and worship God in spirit & in truth... responding to His call for the Glory of God?

1. "Get up and go to Straight Street. Find the house of Judas, and ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. Saul has seen a vision in which a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he is able to see again." (New Century Version, Acts 9:11-12)
2. "The time is coming when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, and that time is here already. You see, the Father too is actively seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship him in spirit and truth." (New Century Version, John 4:23-24)
3. "In the Christian moral tradition, sloth (Latin: *acedia*, *accidia*, *pigrity*) is one of the seven capital sins, often called the seven deadly sins; these sins are called the capital sins because they destroy charity in the man/woman's heart and thus may lead to final impenitence and eternal death. Sloth is defined as spiritual and/or actual apathy or laziness, putting off what God asks you to do, or not doing it or anything at all. (Wikipedia – keyword: "sloth")