

“Jesus People Are Inclusive” Acts 10

Acts 10 gives believers reminders about how to see people far from God.

- **Reminder #1: GOD NOTICES UNBELIEVERS AND DRAWS THEM TO HIMSELF.**

At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, ²a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God. ³About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, “Cornelius.” ⁴And he stared at him in terror and said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.”
Acts 10:1-5 (English Standard Version)

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.
John 6:44a (ESV)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise [for Jesus to come again] . . . He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:9 (New International Version)

- **Reminder #1: GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO DROP THEIR PREJUDICES AND CONNECT WITH PEOPLE FAR FROM GOD.** (See Acts 10:8-33)

. . . “What God has made clean, do not call common.” Acts 10:15 (ESV)

“There are three men searching for you. It’s all right; get up, go down and go with them. Don’t be prejudiced; I have sent them.” Acts 10:19-20 (Wright)

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.” Acts 10:28 (New Living Translation)

God does not accept us as we are; God invites us as we are.

- **Reminder #3: THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST IS FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES.**

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”
Acts 10:34-43 (ESV)

While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Acts 10:44-46a (ESV)

- **Reminder #4: BAPTISM IS A BELIEVER’S FIRST DEMONSTRATION OF SAVING FAITH.**

Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 10:46b-48a (ESV)

Three Important Words

- Obey (Matthew 28:19)
- Identify (Romans 6:1-4)
- Proclaim (Luke 12:8)