

WORD

²⁸And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. ²⁹So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me."

ACTS 10:28,29 (READ ACTS 10.)

Acts 10 tells us the story of a Gentile man, Cornelius, and how he, his family, and friends got saved. Peter preached the gospel to them, but first God had to change Peter's understanding of who the gospel should reach. God wanted communities like that of Cornelius to know Him—and for the gospel to be preached in every nation. For that to happen, mindsets and barriers (like what Peter faced) need to be broken. In this lesson, we will look at what this means.

1 Breaking Mindsets

³⁴So 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."

ACTS 10:34,35

Peter's original understanding of who the gospel was for had to be broken. God wants all people to be saved, no matter who they are, where they come from, or how different they are from us. How did God break this mindset in Peter (Acts 10:9-16)? How did Peter respond to the vision (Acts 10:17-21)?

2 Breaking Barriers

⁴²"And 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 10:42,43**

The gospel was not just to be preached in Jerusalem, Samaria, and Judea, but also to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8). And everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved. This means, we will have to bring the gospel beyond our borders and regions into every nation. What happened among Cornelius and his relatives after they heard the gospel (Acts 10:44-48)?