

# **Unstuck: How the Early Church Changed the World**

Lesson 9

Acts 9:32-10:48

November 7, 2021

## **When God Asks the Church to Change**

### **Introduction**

In the Old Testament, God provided 613 laws about what to eat, how to act, who to interact with, and so on. These laws were intended to teach the Israelites the importance of holiness, give them parameters that would allow them to stay devoted to God, and keep them physically and spiritually safe. But, over time, the laws became distorted, other laws were added, and what once had been intended to ensure the Israelites would remain in God's favor became a chore.

Peter, a Jewish man, had been raised to know the Jewish law. He knew that certain actions were forbidden. Peter probably meticulously followed the law, eating what was clean, and associating with those who were clean and pure. These laws were standing in the way of Peter carrying out God's mission. But God changed that, and Peter went on to reach many, many people with the gospel.

So often, in our modern world, our mistaken understandings of the Bible and our prejudices get in the way of God's mission. And like Peter, we need to change our way of thinking to show those around us the love God has for them.

***Memory verse: "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles."*—Acts 10:44-45**

Pray and read Acts 9:32-10:48. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

**What does the passage say?**

1. Who did Peter heal, and from what were they healed?  
(Acts 9:33, 36-37)
2. What was the result of Peter healing these two?  
(Acts 9:34, 40, 42)
3. What kind of man was Cornelius? (Acts 10:1-2)
4. What did the angel of God tell Cornelius to do? What was his response? (Acts 10:5-8)
5. What did the Spirit tell Peter to do? (Acts 10:13-20)
6. What does Peter tell the people gathered at Cornelius's house? (Acts 10:28-29)

7. What did Peter recount to the people who had gathered? What happened because of Peter's words? (Acts 10:36-48)

### **What does the passage mean?**

1. How does God change the direction of the church? (1 Samuel 16:7; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Luke 19:7-10; Acts 9:1, 17-18; Romans 12:1-2)
  
2. As disciples of Christ, what are we commanded to do? (Matthew 28:19-20; John 15:16; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 4:11-13)
  
3. Jesus was an unexpected king. What did His arrival, death, and resurrection do to the Old Testament Jewish religious system? (Acts 10:28; Romans 3:22-25; Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 2:13-16; Colossians 3:11)

4. God addressed Peter through visions and His angels, and Peter spoke to God. We pray, but how does God speak to us? (John 10:27-28; Romans 10:17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Peter was willing to change how he viewed the Gentiles. Why is it necessary to be willing to change? (2 Chronicles 7:14; Acts 3:19; 10:34-35; 1 Corinthians 8:9, 13, 9:19, 22)

### **Applying the passages**

1. What prevents you from following Jesus' command to "go and make disciples of all nations"? (Matthew 28:19)

