



SO PETER OPENED HIS MOUTH AND SAID: "TRULY I UNDERSTAND THAT

GOD SHOWS NO PARTIALITY.

BUT IN EVERY NATION ANYONE WHO FEARS HIM & DOES WHAT IS RIGHT IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM."

ACTS 10:34-35



THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER

Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World
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Peter's Mission Peter meets Cornelius



**CHALFONT
ST. PETER
PARISH CHURCHES**

Know What:

- This week we are starting a new series learning about Peter and the things he did after Jesus rose from the dead. Today we are learning about Peter's encounter with a man called Cornelius.
- Since Pentecost most of the people who had come to believe in Jesus were already Jews. Not many gentiles (non-Jews) had become Christian. Christians still followed the laws of the Old Testament, including rules about who they could spend time with and what food to eat.
- One day when Peter was praying he had a vision of 'unclean' food and heard God telling him to eat it. Peter refused, saying that he would not eat such food. God replied and said 'What God calls clean, don't call unclean.'
- After this a servant of a Roman called Cornelius arrived asking to meet with Peter. Peter realised that just as God had called the food clean, he was also calling all people clean and so went to meet Cornelius.

So What:

- God loves everyone, no matter what they look like or where they are from. We should not see anyone as being beyond his love or reach.

Now What:

- Let us thank God that we are welcomed into his family, no matter who we are.
- Let us think of how we can strengthen our community and welcome more people in to the church.

LUKE'S LETTERS:

Jesus is enough.

A teacher of mine once said that the greatest problem for Christians in the early church was that they were always looking for something to add to Jesus. For Peter in this story it's 'Jesus plus food laws', in other situations it's 'Jesus plus circumcision', in others it's 'Jesus plus secret wisdom'. Life would have been a lot easier if they had just realised that Jesus is enough.

The same is true of us today, there is always more that we are striving for. Usually these things aren't bad. We are often chasing family, fulfilment, love, or stability. The problem comes when lose sight of Jesus and chase too far. People often talk to me about the challenges of balancing family with career with lifestyle expectations in an area like this. Many of us are worn down by keeping up with the Joneses or even just keeping on top of our work load. Often in these situations chasing after the extra that we think will make life easier is the thing that makes it harder and is the thing that pulls us away from what we really want.

In those times we need more than ever to know that Jesus is enough, that he pulls us closer to himself, reassures us of who we are in him, and strengthens us to be able to live life to its fullest.