

Two Worlds Meet

Acts 10:14-33

Introduction:

Context:

- A classic Roman, a “God-fearer” is found by God in a vision.
- But told to send for Peter who is at Joppa.
Peter will give an official apostolic announcement.
- But God must prepare Peter in a vision.
- **All** animals are lowered by God... “kill and eat”
 - the unclean are now clean
 - the law is officially removed giving way to grace
the Old Testament gives way to the New
“the church in all its beauty is about to emerge”

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- v 14. But Peter said “No, Lord”
 - v 15. (Ezekiel 4:4) Ezekiel was told to rescind law but could not and God allowed it. Peter is now told to do the same and refuses, but God does **not** allow it because an official removal has taken place.
 - “...cleansed...” foods yes. But Peter learns that God means far more than just **what** you eat but **who** you eat with and **who you receive** into the church.
 - Once Peter enforces this (ch. 11, 15) the gates will be opened to the Gentiles.

v 16. Three times... a fact is confirmed from heaven as three men approach, all Gentiles

v 17. And now it is time to put this revelation to work. Three men knock at the gate. Why don't they enter? They know their place.

v 19. God is overseeing all events.
“Three men are looking for you.”
How profound! Such is all of history.

v 20. “Don't be scared.” This is God's counsel to the first missionary.
“I am with you”...“I am behind all events”...
“I have bought them to you and you to them.”

- Peter is about to enter a strange and forbidden world (Matt 18:17)

v 21-22. As the word of these men confirms

v 23. So they did something “forbidden”
“Y'all c'mon in”

v 23b. The next morning.

- Why bring six Jewish brethren? As witnesses. Because two worlds are about to merge.
- Note:(1 Cor. 14:21) Jews will observe tongues among Gentile Christians thus affirming God's judgment on Israel.

v 24. Two worlds meet for the first time.
The conversation will go back and forth seven times.

- The Gentile speaks
- The Jew responds
- The Gentile concludes
- The Jew preaches
- The Gentile believes
- The Jew orders
- The Gentile complies

- v 25. Does the first (official) Gentile convert respond?
He falls on his face. Not idolatry but a recognition of the rank of the divine messenger.
- v 26. How does the first missionary respond to the first convert among the pagans?
In humility... “Just a man” i.e. a fellow sinner
We are proud of who we represent
Humble in who we are.
There is no hierarchy in Christianity!
- v 27-28. As a matter of fact Peter admits his weakness and flaws
“God corrected me”
This tells you of Peter’s understanding of the vision.
It’s not just foods that are made clean but the Gentiles who eat them
- v 29. The church complied to Christ’s headship setting aside fifteen centuries of tradition in one communique.
- v 30-33. The response of Cornelius
lit. “You have done well.”
i.e. “Well done good and faithful servant.”
i.e. “Thank you.”

Conclusion: