

God will  
give you the  
explanation  
of why you  
are here.

Acts 10:23–33 (NKJV)

**BETTER**



## **Acts 10:23–33** (NKJV)

23 Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

24 And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.

25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.

26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I myself am also a man.”

27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together.

28 Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?”

30 So Cornelius said, “Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

31 and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.

32 Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.’

33 So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.”

# Explanation

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(vv. 23–33)

- Preparation (vv.1-22)
- Explanation (vv.23-33)
- Proclamation (vv.34-43)
- Vindication (vv.44-48)

## **Acts 10:24** (NKJV)

And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. Peter was there to share the word of God with those who were prepared by God to receive the word.

- When Peter arrived, he discovered that Cornelius had gathered relatives and friends to hear the message of life.
- He was a witness even before he became a Christian!

## **Acts 10:25–26** (NKJV)

25 As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him.

26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I myself am also a man.”

- Peter is able to explain who Christ is because he knows who he is.



# Revelation 19:10 (NKJV)

And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

How easy it would have been for Peter to accept honor and use the situation to promote himself; but Peter was a servant, not a celebrity.

# 1 Peter 5:1–6 (NKJV)

1 The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed:

2 Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;

3 nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble.”

6 Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

## **Acts 10:28–29** (NKJV)

28 Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?”

- I am able to explain Christ because God has opened my eyes!

- When he announced that he did not consider the Gentiles unclean, this must have amazed and rejoiced the hearts of his listeners.
- For centuries the Jews, by Old Testament Law, had declared the Gentiles to be unclean, and some Jews even referred to the Gentiles as “dogs.”

## **Acts 10:29–31** (NKJV)

29 Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?”

30 So Cornelius said, “Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing,

31 and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.

- The remarkable thing in this section is Peter’s question, “I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?”
- Didn’t Peter know that he had been summoned there to preach the Gospel?
- We must be ready to give an account of the word, and bring others to Christ.



## **2 Timothy 4:2** (NKJV)

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

## **1 Peter 3:15** (NKJV)

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

- Today, we can look back at developing events in the church and understand what God was doing, but it might not have been that easy had we been living in the midst of those events.
- Cornelius rehearsed his experience with the angel and then told Peter why he had been summoned: to tell him, his family, and his friends how they could be saved.

- They were not interested Gentiles asking for a lecture on Jewish religion.
- They were lost sinners begging to be told how to be saved.

- We see the idea that “one religion is as good as another” is completely false.
- Those who tell us that we should worship “the God of many names” and not “change other people’s religions” are going contrary to Scripture.

## **John 10:7–9** (NKJV)

7 Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

**1<sup>ST</sup>** “Salvation is of the Jews”, and there can be no salvation apart from faith in Jesus Christ, who was born a Jew.

## **John 4:22–24 (NKJV)**

22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

- Cornelius had piety and morality, but he did not have salvation.
- Some might say, “Leave Cornelius alone!”
- His religion is a part of his culture, and it’s a shame to change his culture!”
- God does not see it that way. Apart from hearing the message of the Gospel and trusting Christ, Cornelius had no hope.

**2<sup>ND</sup>** the seeking Savior will find the seeking sinner.

**Luke 19:10** (NKJV)

for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

**Jeremiah 29:13** (NKJV)

And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.



- Wherever there is a searching heart, God responds.
- This is why it is essential that we as God's children obey His will and share His Word.
- You never know when your witness for Christ is exactly what somebody has been waiting and praying for.

**3<sup>RD</sup>** Peter certainly was privileged to minister to a model congregation

## **Acts 10:33** (NKJV)

So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.”

- They were all present, they wanted to hear the Word, and they listened, believed, and obeyed.
- What more could a preacher ask?