

## **When we object to God's vision**

### **Opening text: Acts 10**

Peter was the instrument that God was going to use to communicate the Gospel to Cornelius and his people group. The angel did not communicate the gospel – that was reserved for Peter. However, at that point Peter was not ready to say yes and embrace that kind of vision. There was prejudice in his heart, there were objections.

#### **1. God had to deal with Peter's heart.**

a) The timing of the vision was highly inconvenient.

Peter was very hungry and wanted to eat (v.10). He had his own immediate need.

b) The nature of the vision was inappropriate

It was against the Law of the Jews and to the way Peter was brought up to eat the food he saw in the vision. How inappropriate and how inconvenient! Peter was likely disgusted just to look at food perceived as 'common or unclean'.

c) The place of the vision was uncomfortable

Peter had to go to Caesarea. Caesarea was no place for a Jewish person. It was a city built in 25BC by the Romans in honour of their emperor. It was full of temples and idols like other Roman cities. It was not like old Joppa, a true Jewish city. This was a foreign place for Peter.

#### **2. God had to deal with Peter's objections**

V.14 – *'not so Lord'...!*

How many times we said the same: 'not so Lord' – the timing is inconvenient, the vision is too challenging, it will be too uncomfortable to leave the house by the sea, to reach out to those strange people'...

How many times we have inwardly objected to the heavenly vision!

#### **3. Eventually Peter volunteered to the assignment**

In verse 19 we see that it took the convincing of the Holy Spirit for Peter eventually to put his hand up and volunteer for the task.

a) **V.24** - *<sup>24</sup>And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends.*

Cornelius invited his friends to the meeting. He was already volunteering to the purposes of God, although at that point he didn't even know what those were.

**b) V.27-29** - *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?"*

He said that he came without objection but Peter objected! He said, 'not so Lord'.

He objected on the basis of the Law of Moses: *"You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation"*

Even that which could be a valid excuse, was not an excuse. There is never an excuse not to share the love of God with someone.

**c) "But God has shown me"**

He received a revelation of God's heart for every person.

May the Lord burn this revelation in each of our hearts. May each one of us be volunteers in the day of His power. May each one of us put our hand to the plough and never look back at those 'sea views' or whatever we leave behind.

May we all determine to make a difference and participate in God's plan by actively engaging in acts of service.