



Liberation from Limitations

“And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean” (Acts 10:3-14).

Bulletin VCAT32

10 January 2024

“And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common” (Acts 10:15).

“And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually; 8 And when he had declared all these things unto them, he sent them to Joppa. 9 On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: 10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, 11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: 12 Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. 13 And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. 14 But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. 15 And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. 16 This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven. 17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate, 18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there. 19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. 20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them. 21 Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come? 22 And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee. 23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him” (Acts 10:7-23).

Without divine intervention, Peter would not have accepted Cornelius' invitation to visit due to cultural barriers and traditional limitations, which could have hindered the realisation of God's plan. As God's plan cannot be thwarted by man, God set about to disarm

Peter from his traditional bondages - setting him free to fulfil his purpose in life. Note the following:

- 1) Cornelius had obeyed the angelic voice by sending a team to call Peter (vs 7-8).
- 2) It all seemed natural that Peter had a vision about 'food' while hungry, but it was a divine setup for his transformation (vs 9-14). God still uses dreams and visions to communicate with humanity. We must heed divine messages via these channels in order to be guided effectively to accomplish our goals and destiny.
- 3) God's response to Peter's objection "What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common" (vs 15) reveals that God had cleansed Cornelius, a gentile, but Peter was not aware of it, and could have missed the opportunity for being used of God to integrate the gentiles into the church because of his long held beliefs and traditions. The 'holier than thou' attitude (Isaiah 65:5) is often a bane to godliness and effective Christian ministry.
- 4) This was a definite vision from God but Peter doubted it (vs 17). It is easy to doubt a divine revelation that does not fit into our "comfort zone" of thinking, so the Holy Spirit stepped in to clear his doubts "While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee. 20 Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them" (vs 19-20).
- 5) Despite his apprehensions, Peter obeyed the Holy Spirit "Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him" (vs 23).

A song writer summed it up with the words **“When His message comes to you, there is but one thing to do, Just Obey”**. Obedience to the heavenly vision (Acts 26:19) brings liberation from bondages and blessings. Our obedience to God must be prompt and without conferring with flesh and blood (Galatians 1:16).