



God Is No Respector of Persons

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons” (Acts 10:34).

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“And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and he had called together his kinsmen and near friends. 25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him. 26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man. 27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together. 28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. 29 Therefore came I unto you without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for: I ask therefore for what intent ye have sent for me? 30 And 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, thy prayer is heard, and thine alms are had in remembrance in the sight of God. 32 Send therefore to Joppa, and call hither Simon, whose surname is Peter; he is lodged in the house of one Simon a tanner by the sea side: who, when he cometh, shall speak unto thee. 33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God. 34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:24-35).

Sometimes, important truths are caught, rather than taught, even though they can also be taught. Often, it is on the path of obedience that the ‘penny drops’, the light shines, and that which was previously taught but not understood, become enlightened through the inspiration of the spirit of God (Job 32:8), as illustrated in this text:

- 1) Cornelius prepared for the arrival of Peter with great expectation, and assembled his “kinsmen and near friends” (vs 24).
- 2) Cornelius had much respect for Peter. He must have felt that if Peter is so important to be identified by an angel to him, then he deserved to be worshipped. So, on arrival, he fell down at his feet to worship Peter (vs 25), but Peter stopped him, saying “Stand up; I

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myself also am a man” (vs 26). God’s servants must remain humble in the face of human adoration and praise.

- 3) After a brief conversation, “he went in...” (vs 27). The tradition has been broken. A Jew entered a gentile’s house without fear of being defiled.
- 4) On seeing the crowd that gathered and knowing that they would have been aware of the fact that Jews do not interact with Gentiles (John 4), he offered explanation that would have calmed them down to receive the word of God, and then proceeded to ask why he was sent for (vs 28-29).
- 5) Corneliuss narrated the story of the angelic encounter he had, commended Peter for honouring his invitation and proceeded to declare their willingness to hear whatever God commands him to tell them **“Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God”** (vs 30-33). Openness to receive the word of God, from any vessel that God chooses to use, is the essential quality for divine blessings.
- 6) It was at this point that the ‘penny dropped’ for Peter to “... perceive that **God is no respecter of persons**: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (vs 34-35).

This is the message that God wants everyone to understand today. God is no respecter of persons. His offer of salvation is so wide and broad that the Bible declares **“whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”** (Romans 10:13). Acceptance of this knowledge should remove all prejudices, bias, preferences, etc. in taking the gospel to all. It should also make us more open to receive when we call upon the name of the Lord.