God Outside the Lines

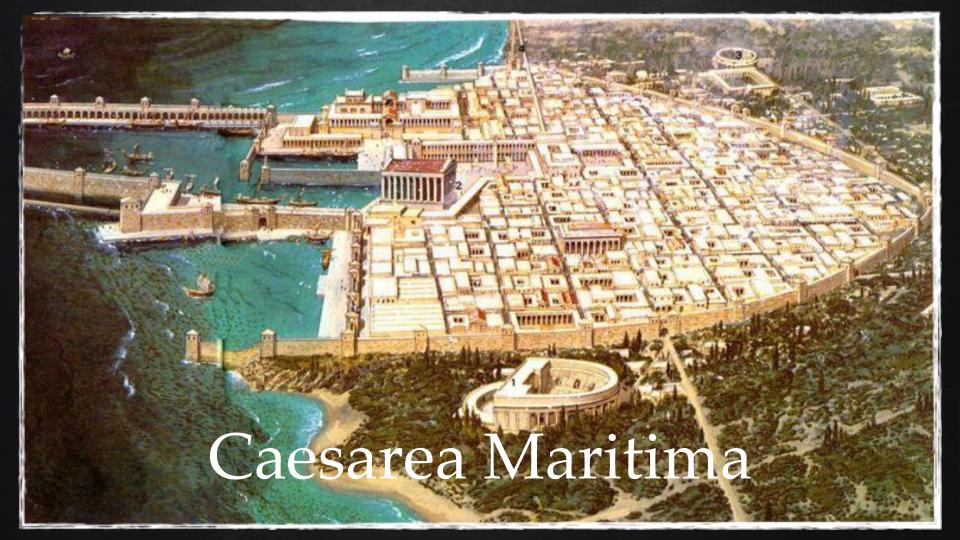
Acts 10



Acts 10:1-2

1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, 2 a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.





Cornelius,
Centurion of the
Italian Cohort



Acts 10:3-5

3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." 4 And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter.

Acts 10:6-8

6 He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." 7 When the angel who spoke to him had departed, he called two of his servants and a devout soldier from among those who attended him, 8 and having related everything to them, he sent them to Joppa.

Acts 10:9-10

9 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. 10 And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance

Acts 10:11-13

11 and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. 12 In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. 13 And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

What the strangest food you've eaten?

Hong Kong-Style Duck Tongue



Hong Kong-Style Duck Tongue



Acts 10:14-16

14 But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." 15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."

Acts 10:16-17

16 This happened three times, and the thing was taken up at once to heaven. 17 Now while Peter was inwardly perplexed as to what the vision that he had seen might mean, look, the men who were sent by Cornelius, having made inquiry for Simon's house, stood at the gate.

Acts 10:26-28

26 But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am a man." 27 And as he talked with him, he went in and found many persons gathered. 28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation."

Acts 10:28-29

28 "But God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. 29 So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me."

Acts 10:28-29

33 "We are all here in the presence of God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord." 34 So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him."

Acts 10:42-43

42 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. 43 To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his

Acts 10:45-46

45 And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

Acts 10:46-48

46 Then Peter declared, 47 "Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.



Jesus wants us to show our devotion to Him through how we welcome others to experience the life of God.

God deconstructs something cherished and sacred for Peter—namely keeping to a kosher diet—in order that those outside might be invited to come and feast with Jesus at his banquet table.

God is leading His people into uncharted territory. We're leaving behind the safe, sacred, and familiar to journey with Jesus into a new adventure.

What sort of things do we look to as defining our faithfulness to Jesus that Jesus may be inviting us to leave behind for the sake of His new assignment?