

# PLOT TWIST

**When God Surprises His People**

## Part 2: *Breaking the Rules for God?*

The time had finally come for the gospel to cross the barrier that separated Jews from Gentiles....

~ Richard N. Longenecker  
*The Expositor's Bible Commentary*

The conversion of Saul in Acts 9 and the conversion of Cornelius in Acts 10 together form the catalyst to change the character and general direction the early church would take afterward.

~ Ben Witherington III  
*Witness to the Gospel: The Theology of Acts*

Some people say that God doesn't hear the prayers of non-Christians. This account shows that He does. God hears every honest and sincere prayer, even the prayers of those who are not yet in a relationship with Him.

~ Ray C. Stedman  
*God's Unfinished Book*

In Peter's presentation of the gospel message he points out that our need for the forgiveness of Christ in the present is accentuated by the fact that he is to be our judge on the last day. We should get right with him now, so we will be right with him then.

~ David G. Peterson  
*The Pillar New Testament Commentary*

Peter's experience in Acts 10 shows us that we typically learn God's will over time through a series of "aha" experiences. Peter's vision initially left him baffled. His understanding unfolded with the help of more reflection, study, and the insight of others. We need to be open to God's Spirit and God's people to best understand God's will.

~ Robert Wl Wall  
*The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

We should never define ourselves by our negatives, by what we refuse to do. The grace of God is manifest in us by our positive way of life, our love for God and other. The world is neither impressed nor attracted by the negative rules we keep. Peter is proud of his negative morality, his legalism – and God rebukes him for his pride.

~ Ray C. Stedman  
*God's Unfinished Book*

That Peter needed a drastic message from God to get rid of his prejudices about distinctions among people suggest that even mature Christian leaders may occasionally need a major paradigm shift in order to come in line with God's thinking.

~ Ajith Fernando  
*The NIV Application Commentary*

**I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts those from every nation who fear him and do what is right.**

~ The Apostle Peter, Acts 10:34-35 (TNIV)