

Pastor Dave Rohde

For Sunday, July 26th "Two Roads, One Path"

Acts 10:1-23a – NIV

¹ At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. ² He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly. ³ One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!"

⁴ Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked.

The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. ⁵ Now send men to Joppa to bring back a man named Simon who is called Peter. ⁶ He is staying with Simon the tanner, whose house is by the sea."

⁷ When the angel who spoke to him had gone, Cornelius called two of his servants and a devout soldier who was one of his attendants. ⁸ He told them everything that had happened and sent them to Joppa.

⁹ About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹ He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. ¹² It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. ¹³ Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

¹⁴ "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

¹⁵ The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

¹⁶ This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

¹⁷ While Peter was wondering about the meaning of the vision, the men sent by Cornelius found out where Simon's house was and stopped at the gate. ¹⁸ They called out, asking if Simon who was known as Peter was staying there.

¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. ²⁰ So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."

²¹ Peter went down and said to the men, "I'm the one you're looking for. Why have you come?"

²² The men replied, "We have come from Cornelius the centurion. He is a righteous and God-fearing man, who is respected by all the Jewish people. A holy angel told him to ask you to come to his house so that he could hear what you have to say." ²³ Then Peter invited the men into the house to be his guests.

Takeaway: When we're led down unfamiliar roads, we learn God's path is wider than we ever imagined.

Questions:

1. What is something you once believed or assumed that changed as you gained more life experience or learned something new?
2. Pastor Dave referred to Cornelius as The Faithful Seeker and Peter as The Reluctant Student. What other titles might you give them?
3. Reflect on Cornelius' experience. What stands out to you about his faithfulness? What surprises you about the way God sees, hears, and responds to him in Acts 10:1-8?
4. Reflect on Peter's experience. Where do you see God challenging Peter's understanding in Acts 10:9-23a?

Sermon: <https://podcast.wpcwestlake.org/services/mp3/sermon20260726.mp3>

Service Video: <https://youtu.be/2-WpdhSh6Dc>

Alternate Service Video: <https://wpcwestlake.livecontrol.tv/c09fd37d>