

# “COMMON THINGS AND COMMON PEOPLE”

Acts 10:9-35

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## INTRODUCTION

Who are you? Of What value are you?

**The “put downs” of the world:** *parents, spouse, employers, neighbors, friends, etc.*

Social, racial, gender, religious.

Today we hear of “hate crimes”.

Christians are hated and killed around the world.

*We are all basically common people who do common things.*

**But, as believers in Christ, we are a “people of His special possession” (1 Pet. 2:9)**

WE WHO WERE NOT A PEOPLE ARE NOW “THE PEOPLE OF GOD” (1 Pet. 2:10). *Such are the words of Peter who learned a valuable lesson here.*

**You must not treat your family, your spouses, your neighbors as “common or unclean”—but as people for whom Christ died and offers salvation.**

**You must treat fellow Christians as CO-HEIRS in Christ.**

### I. MAN’S VIEW

#### A. Stubbornness

1. The Table is Spread (9-12)
2. The command to eat (13)
3. The refusal (14)

Cf. Mt. 16:22—“This (cross) shall **never** happen to you!”

John 13:8—“You shall **never** wash my feet.”

- Peter likely thought that he was being tested; early he had said that he would “never” deny his Lord—yet he had (Mt. 26:33)
- This time he will be sure to stand true to the Lord!

4. The correction—“What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.”

5. The Repetition (16)—God did the same thing **three** times. Emphatic!

#### B. Prejudice

Compare v. 28—Jewish view of meats and Gentiles: can’t even *associate with* a Gentile or *visit him*.

**God has shown that Peter (or us) should not call any man “unholy or unclean”—that is unworthy of visiting with in order to share the gospel with them!**

1. “Things common”—Literally “belonging to several”=“profane”

*The same tendencies exist today concerning “common people” by society, culture, and religions.*

**Compare Gal. 2:12—Peter later fell into the same trap.**

2. “Things unclean”
  - Note the difference between being “yoked” with people morally unclean and associating with people in order to win them—**without compromise**, while *holding high your values and standards*.
3. Mental distinctions (v. 20)—hesitation, doubt, misgivings.

Our World is full of people who are stubborn and prejudiced—just like Peter. We will never succeed in wiping out prejudice from our world—people are sinners. But God views things and people differently.

II. GOD’S VIEW

A. God Controls the Circumstances

- Peter was hungry at the time of the vision.
- The messengers arrive just as the three-fold vision is completed (9).
- “I have sent him myself.” (v. 20)—the Lord used an “holy angel”
- The “unclean men” correspond with the unclean animals.

B. God Cleanses the “common and the unclean”—v. 15, v. 28, 29

- Compare Gen. 1:31—“God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good.”
- Christ is the “vessel”—sheet—in whom all things are cleansed; He cleanses the entire creation!
- Compare Mark 7:14-23: Peter asks a question there and Jesus explains why things entering the mouth do not defile, rather things coming out of the mouth. Note the expression: “Thus He declared all foods clean” (v. 19). Peter is behind the book of Mark!
- **No man, because of mere external differences, should be called common or unclean.**

C. God Shows no Partiality.(34-35)—“Those who fear Him and do right are welcome to Him.”

CONCLUSION

God’s Method: I Cor. 1:26-31

Jesus was common also—and was rejected by men (I Cor. 1:23). He was the “rejected stone” mentioned by Peter himself (I Pet. 2:7-8)

Because of Christ, **we are accepted in Him (I Pet. 2:9)**. CHRIST IS EVERYTHING TO US (I Cor. 1:30)

Since He has chosen us, there is no room for us to boast! (I Cor. 1:29, 31). No true believer is merely “common or unclean.” **If we are not common, let’s act like children of God?**