



THE BIG TABLECLOTH COMING DOWN FROM THE SKY

Slide 1

Watch out! **Slide 2** I am going to ask you a few questions. Are you ready?

- What did the first disciples of Jesus do when they were persecuted?

Slide 3 - They are leaving Jerusalem!

Slide 4 - Do they keep talking about Jesus?

Slide 5 - Yes! Everywhere they go, they talk to the Jews.

Slide 6 - Only the Jews? But, this is not exactly what Jesus said. Remember! He has asked that **Slide 7** the Gospel should be announced to the Jews but also to all human beings, to all the people. That is very difficult for them. They are Jews and Jews must not enter the house of strangers, nor eat with them. Some foods are forbidden, so the Lord will take action. You are going to see how He helped them but also how He changed things. His interventions are sometimes very surprising.

Now, let us listen to the story you can also read in **Slide 8** the Book of Acts, chapter 10.

Slide 9 But what did Peter understand?

Slide 10 WHAT DID PETER UNDERSTAND?

Slide 11 Cornelius, a roman officer, used to live **Slide 12** in the city of Caesarea. Although he was not a Jew, he loved God. He used to pray regularly as well as all his family. He was generous. He was often donating to Jews who were poor.

One day, around 3 pm, in a vision, he saw **Slide 13** an angel of God coming into his home and saying:

Slide 14 - Cornelius!

Slide 15 - Yes Lord? Replied Cornelius frightened.

Slide 16 - Your prayer has been answered, said the angel, your charity has been appreciated by God. **Slide 17** Send now some men in the city of **Slide 18** Joppa to bring Peter here. He is at a tanner's house, just by the sea.

Slide 19 Cornelius immediately sent two servants and one soldier. The next day, the three messengers arrived **Slide 20** in Joppa. Around **Slide 21** noon, Peter went up on the roof to

pray. **Slide 22** He started to be hungry and wanted to eat. **Slide 23** While they were setting the meal, he continued to pray and suddenly saw the sky opened with an object similar **Slide 24** to a large table sheet that was going down to the earth. Inside **Slide 25** were four-legged animals, reptiles and birds, all kinds of animals that the Jews must not eat because they were known to be impure.

A voice said:

Slide 26 - Peter, get up! **Slide 27** Kill and eat!

Slide 28 - Oh no! Lord! I can't do this, **Slide 29** that's impossible! I never ate anything unclean.

The voice insisted:

Slide 30 - What God has declared pure, do not consider as impure!

Slide 31 The vision renewed three times then the tablecloth **Slide 32** rose up in the sky:

Slide 33 - I don't understand, said Peter. **Slide 34** What does God want to tell me?

Meanwhile, the men sent by Cornelius arrived. They were there, in front of the door but Peter was still thinking about the meaning of the vision. The Holy Spirit told him:

Slide 35 - Peter, men are asking for you. Get down now and go with them without hesitation! I am the one who brought them here.

Immediately, **Slide 36** Peter got down.

Slide 37 - Here I am! You are looking for me but tell me why you came here for!

Slide 38 - We are here on behalf of Cornelius, a roman officer. He is an honest man who loves God, and all the Jews speak well of him. An angel of God was asked to make you come to his house to listen to you.

Slide 39 Peter let them in, gave them food and welcome them **Slide 40** for the night. The next day he left with them and with some disciples of Joppa as well. Cornelius was waiting for them. He invited **Slide 41** all his family and his best friends. As soon as he saw Peter, he fell to his feet and bow down.

Slide 42 - No! Said Pierre, lifting him up. Get up! I'm just a simple man just like you!

While coming into the house, Peter discovered all these people gathered to listen to him. He told them:

Slide 43 - If I am standing here, it is because of God. You know it is forbidden for a Jew to be friend with a stranger and to enter his house. But **Slide 44** God taught me not to look at any man as an impure. That's why; I came without hesitating when you called me out.

But, why did you make me come?

Slide 45 Cornelius told what the angel told him, then he added:

- Now that we are **Slide 46** all gathered in the presence of God, we are ready to listen to what the Lord has told you to tell us.

Slide 47 - I admit, said Peter, that God does not make any difference between the persons. He wants all men to know him and to be saved.

Slide 48 He talked to them about the coming of Jesus, the miracles he did. About his arrest, his death, his resurrection, and he added:

- We have seen all he has done, **Slide 49** we are witnessing; He is the promised savior. Anyone who believes in him receives forgiveness for their sins.

Suddenly, as he was speaking, the Holy Spirit **Slide 50** came down on Cornelius and his friends.

The Jewish disciples who came with Peter were very surprised.

Slide 51 - Oh! God is also pouring out his Holy Spirit on them. They are speaking other languages! They are telling the wonders and greatness of God in languages they do not know!

Slide 52 All these people, Jews and non-Jews, then began to glorify God together.

- Well! Said Peter, **Slide 53** since you believe in Jesus and God has filled you with the Holy Spirit;

Slide 54 we are going to baptize you in the water as he asked.

Slide 55 From that day, **Slide 56** Peter and the disciples preached to everyone they met,

Slide 57 Jews and **Slide 58** non-Jews, and the Gospel continues **Slide 59** to spread far and near.

Slide 60 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

*I don't know **Slide 61** who you are, but I do know one thing, it's that **Slide 62** God loves you. Always remember that He does not make any difference **Slide 63** between people, races, position in the society, the poor, the rich, healthy people and those who cry and suffer. This is the great truth that Peter understood. God accepts everyone who loves Jesus and believe in him. **Slide 64** None difference, **Slide 65** none preference! Jesus loves you and wants to bless you!*

Slide 66 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

4000 years ago, God promised **Slide 67** Abraham that He would bless his descendants, the Jews, but also all the families from the earth.

This promise came true 2000 years later **Slide 68** with the coming of Jesus, **Slide 69** His sacrifice and **Slide 70** His resurrection. This great blessing **Slide 71** is an eternal salvation offered to all men, young and old, to all who believe in him and want to follow him. But, how could people believe if no one tell them? This is our duty, **Slide 72** to make this great salvation known by our children, our relatives, but also those who are far away.

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