

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 10 17-33



All nations you have made shall come and worship you,  
O Lord, and shall glorify your name.  
For you are great and do wonderful things; you alone are God.  
Psalm 86:9-10

## **Praising:**

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing to the Lord with cheerful  
voice;  
him serve with joy, his praise  
forth tell,  
come ye before him and rejoice.

## **Reading:**

Acts 10:17-33

Cornelius: the Roman God fearer

The Centurion Cornelius was one of a number of Gentiles who had grown disillusioned with the multiplicity of gods which made up the official Roman religion. In their dissatisfaction with the immoralities of their ancestral faith, this group attached themselves to Judaism.

Cornelius's love for God led to a love for people. This found expression in generous acts of charity. But Cornelius was also a

person of prayer. So it is in the vigour and sincerity of personal spiritual searching that God comes looking for Cornelius. Of course without Peter's new insight about food, people and places, he would never have dreamed of answering this strange and out-of-the-blue call of Cornelius to travel to Caesarea and meet with him. As such, the welcome Peter extends to Cornelius's envoys signals the impending collapse of religious and nationalistic barriers on both sides.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

As we come to you in prayer Lord, may we be conscious of the barriers coming down

- that we may see past our religious traditions to the Saviour who calls us to be one
- that we may respond to your vision that always reveals the bigger spiritual picture
- that we may let go of the misplaced loyalties which keep us from you and one another

Father: in making time to be with you, show me what I need to set aside in my own life, the preferences, the pre-conceptions, all the things that cloud your glory and don't need to. Amen

## **Doing:**

Thursday, 12 May 2016