

Who is your outsider?

- Who do we consider those who **could never come to faith**, to church?
 - well to do, self-sufficient, capable?
 - neds, no interest in any kind of goodness, ...
- That's who the Gentiles were to a good Jew:
 - excluded by God, by history, by habit!

God draws Cornelius

- God takes initiative
 - for reader, point is made clear that God was at work before Peter decided it might be a good idea!

God prepares Peter

- Explain challenge to Peter's pre-conceptions!
 - folk who just can't bring themselves to call the minister anything other than "Mr"!!

God welcomes Cornelius

- **Awakened desire** finds focus and clarity in **Jesus**, in his death and resurrection, in understanding sinfulness:
 - Cornelius must have felt a **deep sense of unworthiness** to bow before Peter!
Also, v.42, judge
 - response is **belief** and request for **forgiveness**

God Confirms Cornelius' Conversion

- Sending of Holy Spirit absolute confirmation of God's hand!
 - the experience made manifest in the act of baptism

Conclusion

- God at work in two individuals here:
 - in Cornelius, the outsider, drawing him to himself - nothing and no-one is impossible for God!
 - in Peter, changing his attitude to others, opening his eyes to God's grace and his own hardness of heart; an on-going process over all of Peter's life
- God wants to work in us to!
 - to change our hearts, whether we are outside the faith or insiders!
 - always to introduce people to himself!