

REFLECTION

January 11, 2026

Baptism of our Lord: Acts 10.34-38

The passage from Acts of the Apostles marks a significant turning point in the early Church's history. While in Cornelius' house, a Gentile and outsider, Peter declares words that alter everything: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality."

Until now, the Gospel was frequently understood within familiar frameworks of people, society, and religious practice. But here, Peter recognizes that God's redemption plan transcends human categories. God is not limited by ethnicity, status, or past experiences. "In every nation," the apostle Peter states, "anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him." This is undoubtedly excellent news, but it is also challenging.

However, God's impartiality does not imply distance or indifference. On the contrary, it indicates closeness to everyone. God joins human history, walks along our paths, heals wounds, and relieves burdens. If God shows no favoritism, it is because God's love is freely available to everyone. Today, this scripture urges us to do an honest assessment of our hearts. Are there people we intentionally or unintentionally exclude? Do we establish boundaries where God does not, based on our backgrounds, culture, social standing, or even moral struggles? Peter had to unlearn deeply rooted ideas to identify God, who was already working in Cornelius' life. We, too, must be aware of where the Spirit is leading us outside of our comfort zone. And may our lives, like Jesus', gently but forcefully proclaim that everyone is worthy of God's redemptive love.

