

New Life Christian Fellowship

John (The Baptist) didn't spend his time eating and drinking, and you say, 'He's possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man (Jesus) on the other hand, feasts and drinks, and you say, 'He's a glutton and a drunkard, and a friend of tax collectors and other sinners!' But wisdom is shown to be right by its results." (Matthew 11:19)

Is there someone who needs your time, but you avoid them because they are different or difficult?

God gave Peter a vision (Acts 10:1) of all kinds of foods saying: "Peter – go kill and eat". Peter was horrified: "No, Lord, I have never eaten anything our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean."

The voice spoke again: "Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean." The same vision was repeated three times.

Before Peter's vision a Roman Centurion, Cornelius, whose prayers, generosity and goodness had been noticed by God, was told by God's angels to find Peter.

As Peter pondered his visions, Cornelius' men found him. Then it all made sense. Peter visited Cornelius saying: "You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean. So I came without objection as soon as I was sent for..."

Peter told Cornelius about Jesus, he was filled with God's Spirit and this marked a new beginning for non-Jewish believers.

God worked His purpose out through these two different, but called by God, believers; revealing the news that Jesus is for all people.

Stubbornness, prejudice, racism, division, difference, un-forgiveness are some barriers that separate people from Jesus. Jesus wants to break down barriers.

Jesus was called "friend of sinners", when he chose to be with the despised of First Century Palestinian society. This did not put him off, Jesus transformed their lives, always keeping his own integrity. Jesus still chooses sinners for friends - I am one of them!

Is God calling you to take a chance on someone, like Jesus did? Will we withhold our friendships from someone God has called us to, because we think the people are "unclean".

Jesus gave everything; he calls us to be like him. This includes sharing our time, money and gifts with others; including those we find different or challenging. This takes vision, wisdom, patience and love.

After all, as the Bible says: “Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” (Hebrews 13:2)

New Life Christian Fellowship meet in Kilgetty Community Center, 10.45am
Sundays, all welcome. Call 01834 831533/07827293781 if you want to talk or would like us to pray.