

Dramatization of ACTS 10:9-48 – REIMAGINED

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By Shelly Stackhouse, Kathryn Lewis and Larry Roeming

In Hartford lived a woman named Cordelia, a Democrat of the Liberal persuasion. She was a devout woman who loved God as did all her family. She gave money generously to people in need and prayed constantly to God.

One afternoon about 3 o'clock, she had a vision in which she clearly saw an angel of God coming and saying to her, "Cordelia!" She was terrified and said, "What is it, Lord?" The angel answered, "Your prayers and your generosity have risen as a memorial before God. Now send a messenger to bring a certain Republican called Peter who is staying in Greenwich with Simon, an investment banker, whose house is by the Sound."

When the angel left, Cordelia called her brother, who didn't mind driving 91 and the Parkway, and told him everything. Her brother agreed to go to Greenwich to find this Peter.

About noon the next day, in Greenwich, Peter went out to the Sound to pray. He fell into a trance, and saw heaven opened and a large sheet of paper fall to the ground. On the paper was an invitation to a fund-raising dinner for Planned Parenthood! He heard a voice saying, "Peter! Go and listen to these people!" But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I would never talk to people who support something I think is against your word!" The voice said to him "Those I name as Children of God, you must not reject." This happened multiple times, as papers fell with invitations to fundraisers for and LGBTQ Pride fest and for an organization supporting undocumented immigrants among others.

Now Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of this vision, when, suddenly, Cordelia's brother appeared. He was asking the guard at the gate if this was Simon's house and if Peter was his guest. God's Spirit spoke again to Peter, saying "Look, this man is searching for you. Get up, go out there and go with him without hesitation, for I have sent him."

Peter went down to the gate and said, "I'm the one you are looking for, why do you want to see me?"

He answered, "Cordelia, a liberal Democrat, an upright and God-fearing woman, was directed by an angel to send for you to come to her house and hear what you have to say." So, Peter invited them to stay for dinner, and the next day they all went up to Hartford.

On Peter's arrival, Cordelia met him and welcomed him in with joy! Other Democrats had come together as well, and Peter said to them, "You know Republicans don't associate with Democrats, but God has shown me that I should not call anyone snowflakes or traitors. So, when I was sent for, I came without objection. May I ask why you wanted me to come?"

Cordelia told him about the angel visitation, and the charge to her to listen to this Republican and have a civil conversation with him. Therefore, I sent for you immediately and you have been kind enough to come. So now we have gathered here in the presence of God to talk together about important matters as kindred.

Then Peter began to speak to them, saying "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every political party anyone who loves God and does what his right is acceptable to God. Let's talk together about how we understand Jesus and how we might live our lives as he calls us to do!"

While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who hears him. The Republicans who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Democrats, for they heard them praising God.

Then Peter and Cordelia both said, "Should we not eat together and seal our oneness as children of God with this meal?" And so they ate and talked and learned to love one another as Christ has loved them. (With apologies to Luke, the writer of Acts!)