

## ***Peace for the Journey ... May 4, 2010***

Scripture Reading: Acts 10:9-16

Food is essential for life. It provides nourishment and sustains our physical bodies. Food also provides spiritual and emotional nourishment: relationships are formed and community develops around shared meals. In the New Testament, we read that Jesus had many important conversations at meals and that the early church was committed to the fellowship of eating together.

Food is also an essential part of our identity. People in different cultures eat different kinds of food. Most of us have a favorite food. Many of us have thought about what we'd eat if we knew it was going to be our last meal. We are known by what we eat and don't eat.

This is why today's reading represents a shocking change in Peter's life. In the time of Peter (and still today) Jewish food laws were part of Jewish identity. They were known by what they would eat and not eat. Some foods were clean and others were unclean. So when God, in Peter's vision, releases Peter from dietary restrictions, it is a big deal.

So is the point God is making through the vision. As the rest of the chapter tells us, God also releases Peter (and the church) from *people* restrictions. God cares about everyone -- and so should Peter. God changes Peter's identity. Peter has a conversion.

Let Peter's experience in Acts 10 lead you into a time of prayer and reflection. Does God want to change your identity? Does God want to change who you love and care about? Does God want to change who you think is worthy of prayer and care? Does God want to change how you think about God?

Be open to God's leading. Let God be the one who tells you who you are.