

## PETER AND THE VISION

Written by Ted Swartz

**Characters:** Angel, Peter

**Scripture text:** Acts 10:1-23

**Props:** A bed or cot; sound effect or gong.

**Length:** 6 minutes

**Setting:** The lighting is muted; Peter is asleep. Angel enters, leans over him.

ANGEL: Peter ... Peter... (*He "wakes".*)

PETER: What?

ANGEL: It's time to eat.

PETER: It's about time.

ANGEL: Hungry?

PETER: Absolutely. (*Swings his feet to the floor.*)

ANGEL: Bon appetit. Anything that is here, kill and eat.

PETER: (*Notices what is there.*) Is this a joke?

ANGEL: I'm hurt.

PETER: You're hurt.

ANGEL: I worked hard over this.

PETER: You didn't even prepare it.

ANGEL: But notice the presentation. It's not easy to come up with a tasteful arrangement with four rodents and a bed sheet, but I think I pulled it off.

PETER: I have been noticing! I can't eat any of that.

ANGEL: I thought you said you were hungry.

PETER: I am.

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ANGEL: Well.

PETER: Look at these animals. (*Motions.*) You've got a badger, a kite, three kinds of snakes ... is that a hoopoe?

ANGEL: I believe so.

PETER: I can't eat any of this. You know that.

ANGEL: Then why would I have brought this for you?

PETER: That's my point. By the way, who are you ... GONG (*Or other sound effect.*)

(*Fade back up. The lighting is muted; PETER is asleep. ANGEL enters, leans over him.*)

ANGEL: Peter ... Peter... (*He wakes.*)

PETER: What?

ANGEL: It's time to eat.

PETER: It's about time.

ANGEL: Hungry?

PETER: Absolutely. (*Swings his feet to the floor.*)

ANGEL: Bon appetit. Anything that is here, kill and eat.

PETER: (*Notices what is there.*) Wait a minute. (*Looks from the "sheet" to the ANGEL.*) Weren't you just here?

ANGEL: Was I?

PETER: Yes, yes you were and you brought me the same thing to eat ... (*Looks more closely.*) You added two snakes and a porcupine.

ANGEL: (*Is pleased.*) Yea.

PETER: So nothing has changed.

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ANGEL: Well, the porcupine.

PETER: Is this a test?

ANGEL: (*Checks notes.*) I don't think so ... no, no test. Just the waking ... the instructions ... and the presentation of the animals ... with options of adding species at my discretion.

PETER: Look, I have always been one who follows the tenets of the Law to the best of my ability.

ANGEL: Right. But I thought you said you were hungry.

PETER: Of course I am.

ANGEL: Why are you questioning what has been brought to you?

PETER: Do you have any idea how hard it is to keep those Laws?! I mean come on—keeping track of hooves alone is a minor miracle!

ANGEL: Peter...

PETER: I think I have worked harder than anyone to understand.

ANGEL: Peter...

PETER: I've done the work ... GONG.

(*Once again PETER is back asleep.*)

ANGEL: Peter ... Peter... (*He "wakes" —it is still a vision.*)

PETER: Okay look, enough with the Peter ... Peter—are you here with the animals?

ANGEL: It's time to eat.

PETER: And you've got the animals—I know the drill by this time.

ANGEL: Hungry?

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PETER: Can we dispense with...

ANGEL: You have to let me finish ... Bon appetit. Anything that is here, kill and eat.

PETER: There is no way, pal, I'm going to eat ... is that a warthog?

ANGEL: Isn't he a dandy?

PETER: What? ... Yes, he's a dandy. Why are you doing this?

ANGEL: Peter, who do you think is bringing this food?

PETER: But the laws say very clearly...

ANGEL: Yes, they do.

PETER: Right.

ANGEL: So, kill any of these animals and eat.

PETER: Okay, I've told you ... this is what? The third time? I'm not going to eat this. GONG.

*(PETER is back asleep.)*

ANGEL: Peter ... Peter... *(He "wakes" for real this time.)*

PETER: What?

ANGEL: It's time to eat.

PETER: I've decided I'm not hungry, okay, so you can take your porcupines, warthogs, kites, and hoopoes and...

ANGEL: Peter, you are awake. There's a nice spinach quiche waiting downstairs.

PETER: Oh, really?

ANGEL: And a side of salted mackerel.

PETER: Really?

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ANGEL: So go, and eat.

PETER: (*A little dubious.*) I don't have to kill it first?

ANGEL: No.

PETER: Okay. (*Gets up to go.*)

ANGEL: There are also three men coming to see you.

PETER: (*He stops.*) Uh huh.

ANGEL: They work for a man named Cornelius.

PETER: Never met him.

ANGEL: I know.

PETER: Really.

ANGEL: Of course. They are going to take you to him. He wants to meet you. You are to tell him about Jesus.

PETER: Where?

ANGEL: Caesarea.

PETER: This Cornelius is not a Jew?

ANGEL: He is a good man...

PETER: ... who is not a Jew...

ANGEL: He has given much of his wealth to the poor...

PETER: ...but...

ANGEL: I visited him myself yesterday.

PETER: But he is not a Jew.

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ANGEL:        *(Sharply)* Peter!

*(PETER is stopped)*

ANGEL:        Shut up.

*(PETER does so.)*

ANGEL:        You have been given ... *(Checks his notes.)* Three dreams...

PETER:        All with...

ANGEL:        *(Overriding him.)* Three dreams. Quite creative I might add. Three dreams instructing you to eat something your Law tells you you can't eat. Three men show up to bring you to a man your religion tells you you can't associate with...

PETER:        Yes.

ANGEL:        And you thought this was a maybe a coincidence? *(Pause.)* He called you the rock didn't he?

PETER:        Yes.

ANGEL:        With good reason apparently.

PETER:        I suppose.

ANGEL:        Peter, go, eat something and then go with them. Go on. *(Waves him off.)*

PETER:        All right.

*(He moves off with a look backwards to the ANGEL, who waves him on. Fade to black.)*

THE END

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SCRIPT  
PREVIEW

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