

Acts 9.32-43

The Dead Shall Rise

In BIBLE Days JESUS DID Heal > Many Wonder does JESUS Heal Today?

MANY Questions – Those NOT Healed? – What about FUTURE? – Faith??

Book of Acts > Risen Jesus > OMNIPRESENT, ETERNAL GOD

Reigning in Heaven – Ruling in Church – Residing in Hearts of Believers

FOCUS > Apostles Paul & Peter > JEWS & GENTILES to Faith

BACK to Peter: v. 32 Now as Peter went here and there...

1. Healing that is Sure

a. Sign: Kingdom has Come > HEALING is SIGN of Jesus KINGDOM

KINGDOM – A Dominant THEME of Jesus preaching in Gospels 100's Xs

If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

Luke 11.20

Kingdom = Where Jesus Christ RULES as KING by Authority of His WORD

Those who call Him LORD have ENTERED Kingdom NOW by FAITH

1) Miraculous - SEE Kingdom > MIRACULOUS Power of KING Jesus

many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles Acts 2.43

...people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed. Acts 5.14-16

Ch 9 - Luke records DOUBLE Miracle of Deliverance OVER Disease & Death

Lydda > 25 miles N/W Jerusalem >> Tel Aviv Airport: Paralytic, Aeneas

v. 32,33 in Lydda...he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years who was paralyzed

Joppa 10 miles Further on Medit. Coast, Most Foreign/Int'l place Peter been

Disciple: Tabitha (Dorcas) 1st time in Scripture > Woman called Disciple

vs. 36,37 Joppa a disciple named Tabitha / Dorcas...she became ill and died

v. 34 "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you, rise & make your bed/ immediately rose

vs. 40,41 Peter prayed; and turning toward the body he said, "Tabitha, arise."

// like Jesus did for Jairus' Daughter // Elisha raised Shunammite Boy

2) Mundane Kingdom ORDINARY Life Events of KING Jesus' Followers

Pattern LUKE – Story about MAN, ALSO about WOMAN: Aquila > Priscilla

Ananias > Saphira / Simeon > Anna / Shepherd: 100 Sheep > Woman: 10 Coins

Luke weaves EXTRA-ORDINARY – HEALING and RESUSITATION

With ORDINARY Group of Ladies who Sew their Clothes

b. Servants > JESUS is CHIEF ACTOR in ACTS

“The Acts of the Exalted Jesus done in the
Power of the Holy Spirit through His Apostolic Church”

RISEN Jesus gave the GAME PLAN to the APOSTLES: “...you will be *my* witnesses in
Jerusalem / Judea / Samaria & to the ends of the earth” Acts 1.8

Luke SHIFTS SUPPORTING ACTOR Focus from PAUL back to PETER

v. 33 a man named Aeneas, a paralytic who had been bedridden for eight years

Peter: 10 mile Journey > HELP, COMFORT, WILL of GOD to Saints

vs. 38,39 Lydda was near Joppa; disciples hearing that Peter there, sent 2 men to him, urging
him, "Please come to us without delay!" Peter went with them...

Ministry done by SERVANT for SERVANT to Advance SERVICE of God

v. 36 disciple named Tabitha...full of good works and acts of charity

v. 39 All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that
Dorcas had made

WOMEN Were WEARING > JOPPA'S FINEST Designs by DORCAS

SHE'S Got to LIVE! We CAN'T LIVE without this STUFF!! > BLESSING!

NOT Grumbling AGAINST God > GRIEVING their DEEP LOSS, Real Friend

CHURCH did NOT HOUSE Important in Apostle in 5 STAR Hotel – NO Stars

v. 43 Peter stayed in Joppa for many days with Simon, a TANNER

TANNER > Cured Hides of DEAD Animals > DEAD & SMELLY Animals

Woe to him who is a tanner by trade.

Babylonian Talmud

3rd Century AD Compilation of Rabbinic Teaching

Spiritually Unclean Man & House: Violated Laws against Touching Dead Stuff

GOSPEL Moving OUT of Traditional Territory > Beyond boundary of LAW

c. Spontaneous- Peter did NOT Set Out on HEALING CRUSADE

v. 31 church throughout Judea, Galilee & Samaria enjoyed a time of peace

APOSTLES Emerged from their BUNKERS in JERUSALEM > PEACE Time

v. 32 As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the saints

SAINTS – NT Word for Believers, Used ALWAYS for GROUP, Not Individ.

Means ‘HOLY People’ > used 4 X’s in Acts > MANY Times by PAUL

HEALING in BIBLE > NEVER Scheduled, Always SPONTANEOUS

NOT *"next Wednesday night Apostle Peter in Joppa for Healing Service"*

TODAY > HEALING Meetings Scheduled MONTHS in Advance

NEVER in HOSPITAL WARDS > Big Auditorium, Collect BIG OFFERINGS

Scheduled Healing Meetings?? Schedule Holy SPIRIT OUT of Program?

d. Successful > Aenas & Dorcas NOT on CHURCH PAYROLL as Actors

Not HIRED by ‘Apostle Peter’s Traveling Healing & Miracle Crusade, Inc.’

Dr. Luke emphasizes this is TRUE MIRACLE > REALLY Diseased & Dead

v. 33 Aeneas, a paralytic who had been *bedridden for eight years*

v. 37 she...sick & died - *body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.*

COLD WATER did NOT Wake Tabitha > BUMPED her on the STAIRS

Peter gives SAME COMMAND to Both – vs. 34,40 ‘Get Up!’

HEALING was IMMEDIATE and COMPLETE > No Follow-Up THERAPY

v. 34 Immediately Aeneas got up.

v. 41 Then he called the believers & the widows & presented her to them alive

Peter BOLDLY DECLARES v. 34 "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and take care of your mat."

Unlike Ch 3 NO REACTION of Govt/Leaders to HEALING in Jesus’ Name

OUTSIDE the STIFLING Religious Control of Jerusalem

Make Your Bed > New Life after Healing > ‘Job’ as Beggar is Forever Over

GO HOME where you BELONG > No MORE Begging on STREETS!

Great MIRACLE > Peter gets AENEAS to MAKE his BED

Parents trying to get KIDS to DO THIS! But Almost Impossible to Hear!

e. Sovereign Many Sick & DYING btwn Jerusalem & Joppa WHY these 2?

WHY Them?? Many Sick & Needy > Led by HOLY SPIRIT to These 2!

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" Romans 11.33-36

NO Glamour – No Crowds – No TV Cameras > Brings Jesus to Needy People

Not TOLD Anything about Spiritual Condition of Aeneas > Believer???

Did NOT FAIL due to LACK of FAITH or even LACK of FUNDS

When GOD WANTS to HEAL > or EVEN RAISE Dead > Gets JOB DONE

What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people
Psalm 77.13-15

2. Hope that is Certain

Healing Event – TRUE in 1st C Church – What about the 21st C?

a. Servants WHY did Peter have to TRAVEL to COME and PRAY??

Church in Joppa had PASTORS and ELDERS Already ON SITE?

SOMETIMES Jealousy in Church > Pastor wonders WHY OTHERS Called

SOMETHING Unique about PETER'S PRAYER > Others RIGHT THERE

APOSTOLIC Sign: The things that mark an apostle - signs, wonders and miracles-were done
among you with great perseverance. 2 Corinthians 12.12

Apostolic SERVANTS Healed because were AUTHORS of SCRIPTURE

Peter is not a shaman or magician (like Simon) but an earthly representative of the living and
powerful Christ. Clinton Arnold

We DO NOT have Peter's OFFICE, LIKE Peter we're SERVANTS of Jesus

To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one
who also will share in the glory to be revealed 1 Peter 5.1

b. Spontaneous APOSTOLIC Office CLOSED > No More APOSTLES

HEALER is NOT Apostle > JESUS: HIS OFFICE is ALWAYS OPEN

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13.8

Jesus is the SAME – But He does NOT DO Everything Same Way TODAY

MANNA Ceased OT Saints > GROW Own Food > No More Free LUNCH

Prayer in Faith > Pray now, Expectant > With them ASAP – Phone!

In the church God has appointed...those having gifts of healing 1 Cor 12.28

BELIEVERS Not Told to RUN AROUND in Panic to GIFTED PRAYERS!

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint
him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick
person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore

confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.
James 5.14-16

- 1) Personal, pastoral, care
- 2) Counsel, teaching, confession
- 3) Medicine (oil)
- 4) Fervent prayer to God our Healer

c. Successful ? Peter BOLDLY DECLARES v. 34 "Jesus Christ heals you."
TODAY – NOT So Sure – ADD Theological DISCLAIMER 'IF God's will'
30+ Years Ago - READING John Wimber's 'POWER HEALING' Book
Our 3 SMALL BOYS in Uganda > Tire SWING in Big Tree in Front Yard
18 yr old JOSEPH > Delivered Milk from College Farm > Christian > HELP!
FELL Out of Tree > Rushed to Hospital MY TRUCK – Dayna's Arms
PRAYED > Begged God > CRIED >> Book gave Sense of CONFIDENCE

Returned that Eve to VISIT in HOSPITAL > Young Man was DEAD!!

SHOCK – Hurt – Anger – Betrayal – DISAPPOINTED by HEALING GOD!

35 Years Later > PAIN and SHAME > Man DIED for KIDS to PLAY!?

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits -- who forgives all your sins and
heals all your diseases. Psalm 103.2-3

ALL – Not SOME – ALL Sins and Diseases > ALL GONE, ALL FINISHED

JOSEPH'S Family – Strong BELIEVERS – COMFORTED Us in THEIR Pain

Full & Final HEALING & FORGIVENESS when we SEE Him Face to Face

I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed
away... There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of
things has passed away. Revelation 21.1,4

d. Sovereign Physical Healing is Temporary / Salvation is ETERNAL

MOST URGENT Need > Christ's SAVING POWER Resting on US

ULTIMATE GOAL of Peter's Ministry > People TURN to the LORD

v. 35 All the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

God could Have Kept her ALIVE, shows Jesus is Author of NEW LIFE

v. 42 became known thru all Joppa, many people believed in the Lord.

GOSPEL of Jesus GROWS > Church MOVING OUT in ALL DIRECTIONS

All in Lydda > All over Joppa > Ethiopian in Candace Courts > Many Samaria

SWEET AROMA > Life-Giving Gospel > SPREADS Far and Wide

DEATH > God's Gateway to HEAVEN > Live is Christ, DIE is GAIN!

DORCAS is NEEDED – SERVICE on Earth NOT FINISHED

I am immortal until the will of God for me is accomplished. David Livingstone

DON'T Know ALL DETAILS > But we KNOW Our DESTINATION

e. Sign: Kingdom is Coming – NOW but NOT YET – Walk by FAITH

God Sustaining World by His Word & Power ALWAYS

We call Mother Nature / Laws of Nature / Supernatural Power of GOD

Miracle does not require any MORE Power from God than NORMALITY

Miracle is DEVIATION from NORM > Not an Extra Effort from God

MIRACLES called Miracles because ABNORMAL – Not happen DAILY

MIRACLE Stepping Outside of Natural Order > Philip's Travel to Ethiopian

TAKE Antibiotics to Cure a Infection & Works NOT a MIRACLE

Take CHEMO to End CANCER --- Temporarily – Not a MIRACLE

GIFTS and Blessings from God – INVENTIONS, Bodily Responses

Natural Order of God's Design > God working within World He Created

AENEAS and DORCAS > TROPHIES of SAVING, HEALING Grace

SHINE like SEARCH LIGHTS in Lydda and Joppa

PEOPLE Need to SEE GOSPEL before they can HEAR the GOSPEL

Godly Example Dorcas: v. 36 who was always doing good and helping the poor

COMMON CRITICISM of Church and Christians > NO Practical GOOD

YES! We are CALLED to REPENT & BELIEVE > Show by Your WORKS

20 Centuries LATER > See SOME BRIGHT Lights > People of God SHINE

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there were NO HOSPITALS

Were FAMILY Caregivers & DOCTORS – NOTHING for POOR, ALONE

Everywhere GOSPEL has GONE > MEDICINE and HOSPITALS Followed

UNIVERSAL Sign for MEDICAL Care >> CROSS

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there were NO ORPHANGES

World TOO FULL – Greek and Roman Parents EXPOSED Unwanted Children

ROMAN Baby Born > Brought to Father > IF he OPENED ARMS – KEPT

OR Child Discarded > Some Lived to Roam Streets > Prostitution

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there were NO LEPROSARIUMS

Everyone FEARED Lepers > Ran Away > ONLY Jesus LOVED & Touched

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there were NO DISASTER RELIEF Organization

NOTHING in Ancient Literature of ROMANS collecting funds for Starving Egyptians >
People CARED FOR themselves ONLY

STRUGGLING Early Church – Mostly SLAVES – Offering for Jerusalem

DISASTER RELIEF > COMMON Expression of CHRISTIAN CONCERN

BEFORE Jesus Christ came there was NO COMMON EDUCATION

Was Education – Tutors – Scholars – Scholarship >> ELITE, WEALTHY

Many People & Groups CARE for People in Need > Care DEEPLY

Help Health Care, Wheelchair Access, Addictions, Housing, Financial Help

One thing will HAPPEN to All those in Need > Going to DIE

Bring More Doctors, Money, Better House > Won't make them ALIVE

It is Christians who have gone into the cities of the world and have hunted out the poor, the young, the sick, the uneducated...and enabled them to be something other than destiny would seem to have chosen for them. This is just biblical religion. And here was Peter, a poor fisherman – and Dorcas a humble seamstress – doing exactly that. James Boice

We have SAME MESSAGE to Sick, Hungry, Hurting World -

Jesus Christ HEALS YOU! – Ps 103.3 “he heals all our diseases”

PERHAPS – Immediately / Medicine / Heaven > CONFIDENT HOPE!

Then SHOW that HEALING and HOPE to ALL we MEET! *****

Congregational Prayer from Psalm 66

Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you. All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name.”

Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man. He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot. There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations — let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip. For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried...

PERSONAL PRAYER

I will perform my vows to you, that which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble... Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for my soul. I cried to him with my mouth, and high praise was on my tongue. If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me!