

Acts 9 - Peter Heals Two People

Sunday AM 11/14/21

Introduction:

Earlier in **Acts 9** we have the conversion of Saul, his going to Damascus and then Jerusalem along with the persecution at both places, and then the growth of the church in **verse 31**. Now our focus turns to Peter and his work in the spreading of the Gospel. The last time we have Peter specifically mention we in **Acts 5** with him and the other Apostles being threatened. We read their response, "**But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: 'We ought to obey God rather than men.'**" (**Acts 5:29**)

Now we pick up with Peter and two miracles one well known and the other often overlooked.

I) Healing of Aeneas

Acts 9:32 Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. **33** There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. **34** And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. **35** So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

A) Facts

1. Lydda was a town 26 miles northwest of Jerusalem.
2. Aeneas had been paralyzed for eight years.
 - a. Meaning, he had been able to walk earlier in life but for some reason he had lost that ability.
 - b. No mention of him actually being a disciple, or his great faith.]
3. Peter healed him. "Then he arose immediately."

B) The effects of this miracle.

1. People saw the results of the miracle in Lydda and Sharon.

2. Sharon could have referred to a small village but most likely referred to the "Plain of Sharon" stretching from Joppa to Caesarea.
3. Resulting in people "turning to the Lord."
 - a. **Hebrews 2:2** *For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?*
 - b. These folks saw the evidence of divine power and more importantly the divine message.
4. The greater event was the people turning to the Lord.

II) Raising of Dorcas/Tabitha

Acts 9:36 *At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. 37 But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41 Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. 42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. 43 So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.*

A) Facts about Dorcas

1. Women played a prominent role in the ministry of Jesus.

Luke 23:55 ***And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. 56*** ***Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.***

- a. Women were present at Jerusalem waiting for the events to occur there.

Acts 1:14 ***These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.***

- b. The first female disciple mentioned in Acts is Sapphira, ***Acts 5.***
- c. Dorcas the first female disciple specifically mentioned in a positive way.

2. There are things we know for certain about Dorcas

- a. She was a disciple of Christ- which means she had heard the Gospel and did what the people did on the Day of Pentecost and all other converts in Acts did.

- b. We know her good works- making of tunics and garments and her charitable deeds.

Galatians 6:10 ***Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.***

- c. She became sick and died; her body was prepared for burial.
- d. The brethren knew Peter was at Lydda and sent for him.
- e. The brethren were grieving, weeping at Dorcas' death.

3. What we don't know - Dorcas' age, who taught her, very little about her personally (children), what she died of. None of this mattered.

B) Peter raises Dorcas

1. There was no doubt she was dead as her body had been prepared for burial.

37 But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.

2. There is no doubt she was brought back to life.

40 But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. 41 Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

3. Resulting in more believing the Gospel of Christ.

42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord

4. Turning to the Lord and believing in the Lord was the results of those miracles.

III) Application

A) Use what you have

1. The two men who came to Peter at Lydda did not have the ability to raise Dorcas but they did have the ability to walk and get Peter.
2. Dorcas used what she had, the ability to make tunics and garments, to do good works.
3. Use what you have.

Titus 3:8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want

you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

- a. If you have 2 good legs use them to help someone else.
 - b. If you have time go and visit someone.
 - c. Whatever ability you have us it or it may be taken away.
4. Peter had the Lord and the ability to perform miracles.

B) Concentrate on the greater thing

1. The way Dorcas lived her life.
2. The salvation offered is greater than the miracles performed.
 - a. Aeneas and Dorcas both died later on.
 - b. Their salvation was the greater gift.
3. It not the physical but spiritual blessings Christ offers which is the greater.

Conclusion:

Last week there was an anniversary. One hundred years ago the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was dedicated, November 11, 1921. The body of an unknown soldier in World War II was laid to rest there with this inscription:

“HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY

AN AMERICAN SOLDIER

KNOWN BUT TO GOD.

On July 2, 1937 soldiers were placed on guard and have there since that time. It is one of the most sobering observances one can witness. On November 9 & 10th people were allowed to place flowers at the tomb. We remember our Lord Jesus the Christ on Sunday with the Lord's Supper but each day we should live for Him.