

Christ Caring for People Through People

Acts 9:32-43

November 3, 2019

Christ uses ordinary disciples and the apostle Peter to spread the gospel and prepare Peter for even greater ministry impact.

1. Peter's ministry outside of Jerusalem in Lydda (9:32-35)

Peter travels visiting groups of believers, or "**saints**"

Peter found Aeneas, crippled for eight years, bedridden

Peter **announces** healing in Jesus' name (Acts 3:6)

Immediate healing and Aeneas is told to "*make his **bed***"

"all those who lived [in that area] turned to the Lord"

2. Peter's ministry outside of Jerusalem in Joppa (9:36-42)

Dorcas (Gk.) Tabitha (Aramaic) a "**disciple**" dies

Doing **good** (1 Tim. 2:10, 5:10), helping poor, widows

Her corpse was prepared for **burial**, but not yet

The disciples send two men to bring Peter "*At once!*"

Note similarities with the ministry of Elijah, Elisha, Jesus (see 1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:32-37; Mark 5:35-43)

Her believing friends **honor** Dorcas even in death

Peter sends all the grieving widows away and **prays**

Aramaic = "*Tabitha koum*" (in Mark 5:41 "*Talitha koum*")

She opens her eyes, sees Peter, sits up, then Peter takes her hand and she is "*presented alive*" (see Acts 1:3)

"many people believed in the Lord" in Joppa

3. Peter accepts **hospitality** in Simon's home

Christ used Peter to heal the sick and raise the dead. Christ has bigger(!) things ahead for Peter as He builds His church.

Life Group Homework

1. READ Luke 9:1-2. What four ministries did Jesus specifically authorize His Twelve apostles to do on their mission trip?

Which (if any) of those four ministries have you received special authority to do in Jesus' name? Discuss.

2. Which of the following ways have you personally experienced God's healing? Which have you seen in others? Check box

- Naturally, God restores to physical health (rest, food, exercise)
- Medically, God gives knowledge and skills to medical personnel
- Emotionally, God gives unexplainable peace and trust, not fear
- Supernaturally, God touches a life and miraculously removes all sign of disease or disability, defying medical explanation
- Ultimately, God will raise Christians at the last day with new bodies. Since everyone dies, this is our ultimate hope in Christ!

3. READ Deut. 10:18; Psalm 68:5; Isaiah 1:17; James 1:27 and summarize God's heart for widows and the fatherless.

4. READ Ephesians 2:10. What "good works" are you doing like Dorcas in Acts 9:36?

What are some "good works" that your LifeGroup will plan to do together in Jesus' name? When will you do it?