

LIFE GROUP SERMON APPLICATION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon: Acts 9:32-43 | Peter, Aeneas and Tabitha

April 21, 2024



Introduction and Context: Acts is a book of transition. Briefly describe and recap several transitions presented in Acts:

- a. Transition in the composition of the Early Church: Jewish Christians => Jewish and Gentile Christians
- b. Transition in how the Gospel spreads geographically: Jerusalem => Judea => Samaria => the rest of the world
- c. Transition in the dominant human character in Acts: Starts with Peter, then shifts to Paul

READ Acts 9:32-33

What compelled Peter to leave Jerusalem? Do you agree that he had a legitimate reason for remaining in Jerusalem had he chosen to do that? Why do you think the Holy Spirit directed Peter to this particular man Aeneas?

READ Acts 9:34

Peter makes a pronouncement and gives an instruction to Aeneas. What is the relationship between these two elements of Peter's communication to Aeneas?

READ Acts 9:35

The brief story of Aeneas's healing is an example of a pericope (puh-RIH-koh-pee), which is a fancy word for a scene or story. Verse 35 tells us the point of this pericope. What was it about Aeneas's healing that caused many people to turn to the Lord?

READ Acts 9:36

This verse gives us a set of facts about Tabitha. What are four facts you observe about this woman?

The Greek wording in this verse describes Tabitha as a woman who "abounded" in good works (meaning she did MANY of them). Her works or deeds were characterized by kindness (agathos in Greek) and charity (defined as acts of compassion exercised toward the poor). Further, the Greek verb tense indicates that Tabitha continually engaged in her works of kindness and charity. Summarize the picture this information paints of Tabitha.

READ Acts 9:37-38

How were the actions of the Joppa Christians with respect to Tabitha's body unusual?

Ken made a point in the sermon that only the compulsion of the Holy Spirit serves as a satisfactory explanation of the church's unusual way of handling Tabitha's body. Do you agree with that?



READ Acts 9:39

The wonderful things Tabitha did for other people were symbolic of her heart for service. Have you ever seen a “Tabitha”? What should you do if you ever find yourself lacking in love for brothers and sisters in Christ?

READ Acts 9:40-41, then READ Mark 5:37-42

Peter was an eyewitness to Jesus’ raising a synagogue ruler’s dead daughter back to life. List the parallels and similarities of the two scenes in these two passages. What is the likelihood that Peter recalled the events recounted in Mark 5?

READ Acts 9:42

Again, the point of Luke’s recounting of these events lies in the response of people to the authentication of the gospel message. In other words, God used Peter as an agent of His power shown in miraculous events, and the result of this display of God’s power was widespread faith in unsaved people.

What was it about Tabitha’s situation that caused people to turn to the Lord? [Note that in neither case (Aeneas and Tabitha) is there any record that Peter preached the gospel.] So, what had already happened that caused many people to turn to the Lord?

READ Acts 9:43

It’s not remarkable that Peter would have remained in the greater Joppa/Lydda metropolis to teach new Christians about the Way of the Lord. What was remarkable was where Peter stayed. Why was it atypical that Peter lodged with this other man named Simon?

God was working in Peter’s heart in those days and preparing Peter to be part of the next major transition presented in Luke’s record—the inclusion of Gentiles directly into the Church. Has God ever worked in your life to prepare you for something He was going to do months or years later?

CLOSE your time in prayer together using this format:

- Praise and prayers of adoration/praise/thanksgiving to God.
- Pray to be believers that live in the power of the Holy Spirit (PRAY | YIELD | FILLED | REPEAT)
- Pray that Living Hope would indeed be unified in Jesus and truth and of one heart and soul.
- Share and Pray for the needs of others outside of your group.
- Share and Pray for the needs of the people in your group.