

“RAISING THE SICK AND THE DEAD”

Acts 9:32-43

Pastor Keith E. Gephart

INTRODUCTION

Verse 31 shows that the church was being built up as the result of Saul’s conversion and ministry. Now we see how Peter and the other apostles were involved in the growth. We left the story of Peter in chapter 6.

These events prepare us for the next use of the “keys” that Peter received from the Lord in Mt. 16:19. *This was a momentous point in Church History.*

The two incidents described here at the end of chapter 9: The healing of Aeneas and The Raising of Dorcas show us some important lessons, demonstrating the **sign value of miracles**.

Why are these two and only these two miracles recorded here? In order to demonstrate the “**repentance to life**” mentioned in 11:18:

- Gentiles are spiritually sick (cf. Is. 1:4-6); they need repentance (see v. 35).
- Gentiles are spiritually dead (cf. Eph. 2:5); they need life (cf. v. 42).

God is still in the business of raising the sick and the dead!

- I. RAISING THE SICK AT LYDDA (32-35) [Cf. Jesus’ healing of the paralytic at Capernaum—Mt. 9; Lk. 5:17-26]
 - A. The Place (32)
 - B. The Problem (33)—Bedridden for 8 years; paralyzed
These 8 years correspond to the length of the church’s new life!
All this time the Gentiles lie sick and paralyzed and ignored.
 - C. The Pronouncement (34)
 1. Jesus Christ is still at work (1:1) and He “heals you”—right now!
 2. Get up and “make your bed”—*Do for yourself what others had previously done for you.*
 - D. The Progress of the Gospel (35)
*But, the Lord is not content to merely raise the sick at Lydda; He is about to **raise the dead** at Joppa.*
- A. RAISING THE DEAD AT JOPPA (36-43) The Place (36)
- B. The Person (36)

- Her example led to the formation of “Dorcas Societies”.
 - See the NT instructions for godly women: I Tim. 2:10; 5:10; I Cor. 12:28
- C. The Problem (37)
- D. The Plea (38)
- Compare the request of Mary and Martha to Jesus in John 11:3 and of Balak to Balaam in Num. 22:16; even better, compare the call to Paul in **the Macedonian vision—Acts 16:9**.
 - **The urgency of the request could not have been to conduct a funeral!** They had hope of life; Jesus had promised they could raise the dead, but up till now there had been NO EXAMPLES of such!
 - They had heard of Aeneas’ healing and were encouraged.
 - **Note how this urgent plea and Peter’s response prepared the way for the urgent plea by Cornelius in chapter 10.**
- E. The Proceedings (39-41)
1. Crying of the widows
 2. Casting out mourners: “Peter sent them all out.” [Cf. Jesus’ earlier action with Jairus’ daughter—Mt. 9:25]
 3. Calling upon God for wisdom and power.
 4. Command: “Tabitha, arise.”
 5. Cure
- F. The Proclamation (42-43)
1. Spreading of the news
 2. Saving faith—“Many believed in the Lord” and gained eternal life.
 3. Staying with a tanner named Simon: Simon and Simon.
Peter was gaining a wider view; prepared for the events of chapter 10.

CONCLUSION

- God meets the needs of believers
- God prepares the way for the gospel to the Gentiles
- God shows His concern for believers who are “sick” and “dead.”
- Some of us may still be dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:4)

Are you really alive for God?

Revive Us Again.