

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: To Judea/Samaria IV

Text: Acts 9:31-43

HI: The power of Jesus grows his church

Title: The Fixer

Hook: What's been a point of no return for you?

Date: 4/16/23

Purpose: To see how God grew his church through fixing that which was broken, even death

FCF: This is a broken world, and Christians are not immune to the worst of it. As the early church grew, even in the midst of persecution, they were at peace and in unity. However, disease and death can still strike at a moment's notice. Whether it's a long-term health issues such as paralysis or sudden death, the church was reminded of sin's lingering stain on their world.

COR: Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people? Such a common question still today, and one that drives many to despair, to a disillusioned faith, to seeking solace in other forms of religion or community. We forget that we all are miracles, all in the church who have been taken from death to life.

Christ Trajectory: There are two trajectories to Christ. The first is redemptive-historical. This journey from Peter, which will bring him next week to a fateful meeting with Cornelius, is possible because of Christ's original command to him and his fellow apostles. Peter is a Christ-character in this story, with parallel stories to Jesus in how he heals Aeneas and Dorcas (even using similar words as Jesus when he healed Jairus's daughter).

The second path to Christ is a pair of longitudinal themes. First, that the power of Jesus conquers death. Obviously this is true not simply of an earthly resurrection but the spiritual one that all believers share. The second is that this ministry is for the unclean, whether Hellenistic Jews (who were seen as different from normal Jewish believers) or the simple example of a tanner, one of the lowest working classes available.

Apologetic: This same power can bring you from death to life today. Arise, make your bed, and follow Jesus.

Form: Inductive

Outline:

- I. Through Jesus, leaders care for their people (v. 31-35)**
 - a. Persecution cannot stop the Holy Spirit (v. 31)**
 - b. Leaders pursue their people (v. 32)**
 - c. Only through Jesus can we be healed (v. 34)**
 - d. The church grows in response (v. 35)**
- II. The power of Jesus defeats death (v. 36-43)**

- a. Even in tragedy, faith must endure (v. 36-41a)
- b. The church grows in response (v. 41b-42)
- c. The good news breaks barriers (v. 43)

Main Idea: The power of Jesus grows his church

READ Acts 9:31-43

31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. 34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. 35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

36 Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. 37 In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." 39 So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all outside, 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 And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. 42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

READ Acts 9:31

31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

READ Acts 9:32-35

32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. 33 There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. 34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. 35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

III. Through Jesus, leaders care for their people

READ Acts 9:34

34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose.

READ Acts 8:20-23

20 But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! 21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity."

READ Acts 9:35

35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

READ Acts 9:36-43

36 Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. 37 In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." 39 So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. 40 But Peter put them all outside, 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 And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. 42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. 43 And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

IV. The power of Jesus defeats death

READ Acts 9:43

43 And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

READ Luke 5:24b

"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home."

READ Luke 7:14-15

"Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." 15 And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother."

MI: The power of Jesus grows his church