



"Peter's Miracle Ministry"

Acts 9:32-43

Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel

Intro: We have been talking about Saul of Tarsus.

- And I just want to start off with a little review of the verses we looked at last week.
- Saul of Tarsus has just met the Lord, and everything has become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 – "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come."

Acts 9:19b-20 – "Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

We have seen Saul's journey in Acts 9:

- 1) He's on his back repenting.
- 2) He's on his knees praying.
- 3) Now he's on his feet preaching.

Acts 9:11b – "...go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,"

Acts 9:22 – "But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ."

Acts 9:23 – "When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him,"

Acts 9:24 – "but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death."

Acts 9:25 – "but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall lowering him in a large basket."

Acts 9:26 – "When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple."

Acts 9:27-29 – "But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.²⁸ And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.²⁹ And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death."

Acts 9:30 – "But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus."

Acts 22:21 – "And He said to me, 'Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'"

So, let's look at Acts 9:32-43 we will see Peter perform two powerful miracles...

- 1) He heals a paralytic named Aeneas
- 2) He raises a dead woman named Dorcas

1. Peter heals a paralytic named Aeneas (vv.32-35)

Acts 9:32-33 – “Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed.”

Acts 8:1b – “And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.”

Acts 9:34 – “Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed.” Immediately he got up.”

Acts 9:35 – “And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.”

2. Peter raises a dead woman named Dorcas (vv.36-43)

Acts 9:36-39 – “Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. ³⁷ And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, “Do not delay in coming to us.” ³⁹ So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.”

Acts 9:40 – “But Peter sent 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.”

Acts 9:41-43 – “And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ And Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon.”

Rick Warren said, “God has a purpose behind every problem. He uses circumstances to develop our character.”

- If you know Jesus Christ personally, you’re going to be just fine.
- Look back on how faithful He has been and look forward knowing that will continue.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. In what areas of your life (emotionally, spiritually, or relationally) do you feel ‘stuck’?
2. How can you be sure to give credit to Jesus when you successfully help someone in need?
3. In what area is God calling you to step out in faith before you feel fully equipped?
4. What is one person you remember for their “good works and acts of charity”?
5. When people look back at your life, what kind of legacy of service do you want to leave?
6. How can your daily life of serving others point people toward the gospel?