

One Step at a Time Acts 9:31-43

vs. 31, The church was strengthened and had peace.

- Living in the fear of the Lord.
- Encouraged by the Holy Spirit.
- Increased in numbers.

Saints (God's people)

vs. 32-35, Aeneas -> a saint

vs. 36-41, Tabitha (Dorcas) -> a saint

- Became sick and died.
- Disciples send for Peter
- Widows
- Resuscitated

Peter has walked with Jesus. He has seen Jesus in action.

Luke 8:51-55 After he came to the house, he let no one enter with him except Peter, John, James, and the child's father and mother. **52** Everyone was crying and mourning for her. But he said, "Stop crying, because she is not dead but asleep." **53** They laughed at him, because they knew she was dead. **54** So he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" **55** Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he gave orders that she be given something to eat.

Peter fully trusts in the power of Jesus.

Luke continues to highlight the power of Jesus through healing.

It is a sign of hope.

It is bringing people to faith.

Question after question...Why one and not the other? Not all who die are resuscitated. Not all who deal with disability are healed.

- With the presence of the Holy Spirit we all experience the miraculous, but not all in the same way.

Tabitha lived her life in faith and hope.

Each step she steadily dealt with the realities and circumstances of living.

She used her skills for the glory of God.

In the narrative of Acts she would be considered a "small scale" Jesus follower (saint).

Tabitha was part of a group of widows, who weren't just taking but who were actively giving. She was serving and loving her larger community.

There is NO "small scale" saint in the Kingdom of God. Ordinary people are not ordinary to Jesus.

The church is growing. God is on the move. People are participating in the good news of the kingdom.

1:15, 120 people	2:41, 3000 people
2:47, every day more added	4:4, 5000 people
4:32, one heart and mind	5:14, multitudes of men and women
6:7, disciples increased, large number of priests became obedient to the faith	

Right along side the big things happening there are faithful women and men taking one step at a time because Jesus is worth it.

Question: How does your life demonstrate Jesus is worth it?

Barnabas - Acts 4:36-37, Acts 9:27

The Seven Acts 6:5-6, Serving the widows faithfully step by step.

Men and Women of Samaria - Acts 8:12-13

Ethiopian Man - Acts 8:39, went on his way rejoicing

Ananias - Acts 9:10-17

Aeneas and Tabitha

The miracle of church (fellowship) was given to the powerless, vulnerable, and the unimportant.

What if? What if we saw the beauty of each step we take surrendered to our Savior? What if we allowed the stories of others to truly impact our lives? What if their faith became an anchor for our faith?

Question: How can I be a person of faithfulness and hope even in the normalcy and mundane of everyday living? Are you pressed into the Holy Spirit's activity to see the miraculous? Has your encounter with Jesus changed you? Do others in all aspects of life see the change?

Step by step, one foot in front of the other. Walking toward heaven even as our feet still step on earth.

The locations are telling us something.

The church is growing and the gospel is moving from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

vs. 43, One more clue to what is coming.

Peter stayed with Simon, a leather tanner.

Luke is creating a background to Peter's habits and associations.