

Acts Chapter 9

Jesus Changes Lives

- **Persecution leads to scattering of disciples and spread of Gospel**
- Young Pharisee Saul on rampage killing Christians

I. Saved by Grace: Jesus interrupts Paul's Misery

1 Then Saul, still **breathing** threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord...

Galatians 1:13 ...you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and **tried to destroy it.**

- **Breathing threats/murder:** Voluntary or Involuntary Action
 1. **Voluntary:** Choice to breath...choice to hate
 2. **Involuntary:** Natural to breath. Natural to sin
- **Sinners from conception:** Adam's sin polluted all of mankind

Psalms 51:5 I was guilty of sin from birth, a sinner the moment my mother conceived me.

- Born hating God manifested in hating people of God. Illogical hatred of good
- **My life:** Hating Jews, Beer bottles through synagogue, no attention to Gospel, love to hurt self/others, not care about people, used people...darkness

John 3:19 ...this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

We are not sinners because we sin...we sin because we are sinners!

- Saul breathing threats against "the disciples of the Lord"

1b [Saul]... went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

- Letters of Authorization to kill Christians from "**men of the cloth?**"

John 16:2 They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. 3 And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me. [Believe it is for God but don't know God]

- **Asks High Priest Caiaphas** to go to Damascus: 130 miles NE of Jerusalem
- Seeking to the far reaches of the land to find people belonging to "The Way"

John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. [Not a philosophy, religion but "the way", a person Jesus]

3 As [Saul] journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

- **Chomping at the bit:** Light **around him** coming down from heaven

- Divine Flashlight to expose darkness
- Acts 26:13: Happened at mid-day but Light of Jesus brighter than sun!

4 Then [Saul] fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

- **Saul Falls:** Voice calls by name Saul, Saul...**Why** are you persecuting **Me**?
 1. **Why?** Check your heart
 2. Why are you persecuting **Me**?

5 And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** It is hard for you to kick against the goads."

- **Who are you...Lord?**
- **I am Jesus whom you are persecuting**
 1. Persecute My body you are persecuting ME
 2. Mess with My Bride you mess with me! [Psalm 18]
- **It's hard for you** to go on this way: Hatred, bitterness, discontent, greed, selfishness...not working?
- **Kick against goads:** Long stick w/sharp point used to move oxen along
 1. Sting of a bee/scorpion

Everything you try to do does not work...leaves you wounded and hurting

Proverb: "to kick against the goad", i.e. to offer vain, perilous, ruinous resistance

- Fighting God! Enemy of God. Enemy of Truth, Life, Love, Light. **Cry Uncle!**

We may complain that God compares us to oxen, and indeed it is an unfair comparison. After all, what ox has ever rebelled against God like we have? God almost owes an apology to oxen! [Guzic] [Until one day...]

- The day God *irrupted* into your life? Def. 1. to break or burst in suddenly

2 Corinthians 4:6 ...it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Our Darkness invaded by God's Light. Hatred conquered by God's love

- **My Life:**
 1. Love for Jewish people
 2. Love for God's people
 3. Hatred of sin mine and others
 4. Music change: Rez Band, Maranatha Praise, Petra, Striper
 5. Love for Word
 6. Loved feeling in church
 7. Love to see people saved
 8. Love to witness to cults
 9. Love to serve...

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, **what do You want me to do?**"

- **Lord:** I am in your service.

6b Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and **you will be told what you must do.**"

- **Light unto my feet:** Get up and continue to Damascus for instructions

7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

Acts 22:9 "...those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they **did not hear** the voice of Him who spoke to me.

- Did the men with Paul hear the voice or not?

The statements should be taken together. The men heard the "voice" as a sound [Gr. *phone*] but did not hear the actual words "Saul, Saul," etc. [Schofield]

- Men stood speechless as Saul on ground trembling! No more big shot?

8 Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

- Gets up and saw no one: Lit. He couldn't see anything
- Hold his hand and lead him to Damascus
- **3 Days:** Blind and did not eat or drink. DEAD
 1. **3 Days Dying to Self ...Waiting to rise to new life**

Ephesians 2:1 And you [Jesus] made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath, just as the others.**

- Ex Child of Wrath now Waiting on the Lord for instructions:

SUMMARY: Saved by Grace. Unmerited Favor. Undeserved Kindness

1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, **for this reason** [because I am Chief of sinners and Jesus came into the world to save sinners] I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

- Why me? Because of was the worst of sinners. Glory to God...not me.

II. Unexpected Brother

10 Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

- **Here I am: Never know what you are going to get!**

Abraham

Genesis 22:1 God calls Abraham to offer his promised son
Genesis 22:11 God stops Abraham's from offering promised son

Jacob

Genesis 31:11 God provides for Jacob through his trial w/relative
Genesis 46:2 God calms Jacob's fear of going to Egypt

Moses

Exodus 3:4 God calls Moses from burning bush deliver his people

Samuel

1 Samuel 3:4, 6, and 8 God calls boy Samuel to be Judge/Anoint David

Isaiah

Isaiah 6:8 God calls Isaiah to prophesy "Whom shall I send?"

Available to God. Available for God. Ready to Go anywhere, do anything

- **Ananias:** Just a certain disciple at Damascus that Saul was coming to kill
- **Lord said in a vision ..."Ananias" that's it?**
- "Here I am": Never know what you're going to get!

11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

▪ **Instructions:**

1. Go to Judas' house
2. He lives on Straight Street
3. Ask for Saul or Tarsus...he is praying
4. He has already seen you come in a vision
5. He is waiting for you to put your hand on him that he might see!

13 Then Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

- **Lord...in case you haven't heard...this guy is a bad man**
 1. Killed YOUR saints in Jerusalem [Stephen]
 2. He has authority to kill me...just sayin'

John 19:11 Jesus answered [Pilate], "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. [I've overruled Saul's authority]"

Go talk to that bad man...I have plans for him!

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

- **Plans for Saul:** Chosen vessel for Me to fill...
 1. Bear My name before the Gentiles
 2. Before Kings
 3. To the Children of Israel
 4. Suffering is "the wonderful plan" I have for Saul's life [Count it all joy]

Philippians 3:10 [Paul's desire was to...] know [Jesus] and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings

- Till death Saul would "bear" the Name of Jesus. "Share" in His suffering

Colossians 1:24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, 26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

- Stops one inch off ground!

17 And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Ananias was an ordinary man - not an apostle, a prophet, a pastor, an evangelist, an elder, or a deacon. Yet God used him especially because he was an ordinary man. If an apostle or a prominent person had ministered to Paul, people might say Paul received his gospel from a man instead of Jesus. In the same way, God needs to use the ordinary man - there is a special work for them to do. [Guzic]

- **Brother Saul?** Forgiveness only through Jesus
- Saul broken after 3 Days ready to receive Holy Spirit.

Brokenness is prelude to filling

- Ability to forgive also a result of Salvation. Ananias seeks out his would be killer
- 2015 makes this 70 years since Auschwitz Nazi Death Camp

Corrie Ten Boom Story

"It was in a church in Munich that I saw him—a balding, heavysset man in a gray overcoat, a brown felt hat clutched between his hands. People were filing out of the basement room where I had just spoken, moving along the rows of wooden chairs to the door at the rear. It was 1947 and I had come from Holland to defeated Germany with the message that God forgives.

"It was the truth they needed most to hear in that bitter, bombed-out land, and I gave them my favorite mental picture. Maybe because the sea is never far from a Hollander's mind, I liked to think that that's where forgiven sins were thrown. 'When we confess our sins,' I said, 'God casts

them into the deepest ocean, gone forever. ...'

"The solemn faces stared back at me, not quite daring to believe. There were never questions after a talk in Germany in 1947. People stood up in silence, in silence collected their wraps, in silence left the room.

"And that's when I saw him, working his way forward against the others. One moment I saw the overcoat and the brown hat; the next, a blue uniform and a visored cap with its skull and crossbones. It came back with a rush: the huge room with its harsh overhead lights; the pathetic pile of dresses and shoes in the center of the floor; the shame of walking naked past this man. I could see my sister's frail form ahead of me, ribs sharp beneath the parchment skin. Betsie, how thin you were!

[Betsie and I had been arrested for concealing Jews in our home during the Nazi occupation of Holland; this man had been a guard at Ravensbruck concentration camp where we were sent.]

"Now he was in front of me, hand thrust out: 'A fine message, Fräulein! How good it is to know that, as you say, all our sins are at the bottom of the sea!'

"And I, who had spoken so glibly of forgiveness, fumbled in my pocketbook rather than take that hand. He would not remember me, of course—how could he remember one prisoner among those thousands of women?

"But I remembered him and the leather crop swinging from his belt. I was face-to-face with one of my captors and my blood seemed to freeze.

"'You mentioned Ravensbruck in your talk,' he was saying, 'I was a guard there.' No, he did not remember me.

"'But since that time,' he went on, 'I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fräulein,' again the hand came out—'will you forgive me?'

"And I stood there—I whose sins had again and again to be forgiven—and could not forgive. Betsie had died in that place—could he erase her slow terrible death simply for the asking?

"It could not have been many seconds that he stood there—hand held out—but to me it seemed hours as I wrestled with the most difficult thing I had ever had to do.

"For I had to do it—I knew that. The message that God forgives has a prior condition: that we forgive those who have injured us. 'If you do not forgive men their trespasses,' Jesus says, 'neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.'

"I knew it not only as a commandment of God, but as a daily experience. Since the end of the war I had had a home in Holland for victims of Nazi brutality. Those who were able to forgive their former enemies were able also to return to the outside world and rebuild their lives, no matter what the physical scars. Those who nursed their bitterness remained invalids. It was as simple and as horrible as that.

"And still I stood there with the coldness clutching my heart. But forgiveness is not an emotion—I knew that too. Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart. '... Help!' I prayed silently. 'I can lift my hand. I can do that much. You supply the feeling.'

“And so woodenly, mechanically, I thrust my hand into the one stretched out to me. And as I did, an incredible thing took place. The current started in my shoulder, raced down my arm, sprang into our joined hands. And then this healing warmth seemed to flood my whole being, bringing tears to my eyes.

“ ‘I forgive you, brother!’ I cried. ‘With all my heart!’

“For a long moment we grasped each other’s hands, the former guard and the former prisoner. I had never known God’s love so intensely, as I did then”

- Cori Tin Boom and Nazi Guard brother and sister because of Jesus
- Ananias calls Saul “Brother”

18 Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

- Something like scales fell from his eyes and he could see
- **Baptized:** Dying to Old Sinful Nature [Flesh] living by the Spirit of God:

Ephesians 4: 22 ...you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

19 So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus.

SUMMARY: Saul the Unexpected Brother

III. Immediate Obedience

20 Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God.

- Learned the Gospel from Jesus on the road to Damascus

Galatians 1:11 ...I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Preached “The Christ”

1 Corinthians 15:3 ...I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He was seen by Cephas [Peter], then by the twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. 7 After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then last of all He was seen by me also, as **by one born out of due time.** 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But **by the grace of God I am what I am,** and His grace toward me was not in vain

- Preached Christ the Son of God: Peter’s confession

1. **Christ:** Savior willing to Save
2. **Son of God:** God the Son and able to save

21 Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?"

- **Reverend Dave:**

1. Van "Jesus saves"
2. Wallpaper, Metal vs Praise 3x, "you got the devil in you"
3. 10 years later did not believe my conversion.

You were a bad man...a very bad man

22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

- Confounded religious Jews [in Damascus?]with knowledge of OT proving Jesus

Ephesians 5:8 ...you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

- Paul was now a child of the Light...

IV. Enter Saul

Acts 9:23 Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.

- **After many days? How many days?**

Galatians 1:15 ...when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but **I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.**¹⁸ **Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days.**

- After going to Arabia and coming back to Damascus...3 years total...
- **Saul** preached the Christ/Savior/Messiah before going to Jerusalem

Saul Preached Grace

- Jews plotted to kill him; not arrest, fine, put in jail but kill!
- **Religion hates grace:**
 1. If Grace saves then Self-Righteousness of no use...filthy rags
 2. If we are saved by God's unmerited favor...there is nothing we can do to merit His favor and be saved

So you're saying that every good deed I try to do apart from God's power and without the motive of giving Him glory is worth zero points?

- Infuriates self-righteous/proud
- **Do-gooders** hate the Gospel of grace; unmerited/undeserved favor

Ephesians 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- Good works motivated by love. Not to earn salvation but because of Salvation:
- **Motivated by love...to love!**

Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. [Debt of love to man and to God...]

... brethren, we are debtors." As God's creatures, we are all debtors to him: to obey him with all our body, and soul, and strength. Having broken his commandments, as we all have, we are debtors to his justice, and we owe to him a vast amount which we are not able to pay. **But of the Christian it can be said that he does not owe God's justice anything, for Christ has paid the debt his people owed;** for this reason the believer owes the more to love.

I am a debtor to God's grace and forgiving mercy; but I am no debtor to his justice, for he will never accuse me of a debt already paid. Christ said, "It is finished!" and by that he meant, that whatever his people owed was wiped away forever from the book of remembrance. Christ, to the uttermost, has satisfied divine justice; the account is settled; the handwriting is nailed to the cross; the receipt is given, and we are debtors to God's justice no longer.

But then, because we are not debtors to our Lord in that sense, we become ten times more debtors to God than we should have been otherwise. Christian, pause and ponder for a moment. What a debtor you are to divine sovereignty! How much you owe to His impartial love, for he gave his own Son that he might die for you. Consider how much you owe to his forgiving grace, that after ten thousand affronts he loves you as infinitely as ever. Consider what you owe to his power; how he has raised you from your death in sin; how he has preserved your spiritual life; how he has kept you from falling; and how, though a thousand enemies have beset your path, you have been able to hold on your way.

Consider what you owe to his immutability [unchanging character]. Though you have changed a thousand times, he has not changed once. You are as deep in debt as you can be to every attribute of God. To God you owe your entire being, and all you have--yield yourself as a living sacrifice, it is but your reasonable service. [Spurgeon]

As Christians we are motivated by **love...to love**

24 But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him.

- **Saul still in Damascus: Plot of the Jews is discovered**
- Religious leaders camping day/night by gates of the city catch him leaving

Psalm 38:12 [David] Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; Those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, And plan deception all the day long.

- Satan working through people to stumble, paralyze, intimidate...

Psalm 141:9 [David] Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, And from the traps of the workers of iniquity.

- Traps/snares: Those who wait to say aha...aha! **Accomplices of the Accuser**

Psalm 35:19 [David] Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; Nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause.²⁰ For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful matters Against the quiet ones in the land.²¹ They also opened their mouth wide against me, And said, "Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen it."

Psalm 70:1 [David] Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord!² Let them be ashamed and confounded Who seek my life; Let them be turned back and confused Who desire my hurt.³ Let them be turned back because of their shame, Who say, "Aha, aha!"

- Satan accuses us constantly, continuously, ever ceasing...

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

- Jesus advocates for us constantly, continuously, never ceasing

Hebrews 7: 24 ...because [Jesus] continues forever [and has] an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**

- Enemy plans, plots, sets snares, traps...Jesus thwarts the plans of the wicked...

Proverbs 26:27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

- Jews "Watched the gates day and night...to kill Saul [Traitor?]
- Beginning of "many things he must suffer for My Names sake"
- Also danger from within Damascus:

2 Corinthians 11:32 In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; ³³ but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

25 Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

- Disciples Saul came to kill risk their lives for Saul!
- As enemies watches the gates [obvious]

1. Put Saul put in a basket
 2. Let down with a rope thought wall not gate
 3. Sneaks out of Damascus
- Humbling:

There is nothing triumphant about sneaking out of a city by night hiding in a large basket!
[Guzic]

26 And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple.

- Saul makes it to Jerusalem?
- Danger from Jews. Disbelief from disciples 3 years after his conversion:
 1. Now their God was too small
 2. Was grace only for them
 3. How bad is too bad to be saved?
- Saul could have turned away but focused on Jesus not His people.
- Bumper sticker: Lord save me from Your people?

27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

- **But Barabbas:** Son of Consolation/Comfort/Encouragement believed him
 1. Advocated for Saul: He is the real deal
 2. Supported Saul
 3. Encouraged Saul
 4. Commended Saul
- Love "believes all things"
- Saul declared to Apostles that the Lord "had spoken to him; **gave him** the gospel"
 1. Direct revelation from Jesus not the other Apostles
 2. Preached this Gospel BOLDLY at Damascus in the Name of Jesus

28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.

- **Disciples finally accept Saul:** Went with disciples where they went
- Stayed with Peter 15 days [Gal 1:18]
- Target of the Jews

29 And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.

- Not stopped speaking BOLDLY first in Damascus now Jerusalem
- **Hellenists:** Jews who adapted the Greek culture
- Paul disputes against them
- **On the Offensive.** Gates of hell will not prevail
 1. Saul Attempting to save Hellenist's souls
 2. Hellenists attempting to kill Saul?

1 Corinthians 9:16 ... if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, **woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!** [Compelled]

Paul's words have to do with our being made servants of Jesus Christ, and our permission is never asked as to what we will do or where we will go. God makes us as broken bread and poured-out wine to please Himself. To be "separated to the gospel" means being able to hear the call of God. Once someone begins to hear that call, a suffering worthy of the name of Christ is produced. Suddenly, every ambition, every desire of life, and every outlook is completely blotted out and extinguished. Only one thing remains— "...separated to the gospel..." [Oswald Chambers]

- **Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!**
- But they attempted to kill him...

30 When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

- Brethren see trouble send him home to Tarsus
- **Paul will exit for 12 years** as Peter enters the scene
 1. After 12 years Barnabas will again reach out to Saul [Acts 11]
 2. They will be sent out as missionaries from church in Antioch

SUMMARY: Enter Paul

V. Enter Peter

31 Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

- After Paul leaves: **Jews relent**
 1. Churches in Judea, Galilee and Samaria
 - Have peace
 - Are edified
 - Walk in the fear of the Lord [Wisdom]
 - Comfort of Holy Spirit
 - Church Multiplies

This doesn't mean that all persecution had stopped; instead, it means that they had peace in the midst of persecution. [Guzic]

32 Now it came to pass, as Peter went through all parts of the country, that he also came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda.

- **Enter the Apostle Peter**
 1. Going all over the country
 2. Came to the saints in Lydda 25 miles from Jerusalem
 - Saints: Those who put faith in Jesus

33 There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed.

- **Aeneas:** Eight years paralyzed/Bed ridden
 1. Bed Sores
 2. Lack of friends?
 3. Believer in Jesus
- Peter "finds" Aeneas

34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately.

- **Jesus the Christ/Messiah/Savior heals you**

Arise and make your bed!

- He arose and "made his bed" and took a stroll around town
 1. Imagination becomes a reality
- Imagination of a:
 1. Drug addict now delivered
 2. Porn addict now living a pure and holy life
 3. Unloved spouse now loved by a regenerated husband/wife

35 So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

- ALL saw him and turned to the Lord. Saw Peter but turned to the Lord

SUMMARY: Enter Peter

VI. Greater Works

John 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it."

36 At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds **which she did.**

- Joppa
- Tabitha translated Dorcas [Deer]
 1. Full of good works
 2. Full of charitable deeds...**which she did**; not just think about

37 But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.

- Well liked, respected, honored but dying
- Some people seem like they are never supposed to die [John Candy]
- Why? God's Glory

38 And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter

was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them.

- **2 Men sent to Peter:** "Come quickly" Peter heard many say this to Jesus
 1. Come quickly my daughter, my son, my servant...
 2. Here: Come quickly...our friend is sick, dying, dead?
 3. Faith

She is washed and laid in upper room...dead. They call Peter anyway

- What do we have that is dead
 1. Marriage
 2. Relationship w/ God or others

God has a habit of raising the dead to life

39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.

- Showing the dresses she made for others

...While she was with them

40 But Peter put 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.

- **Peter:**
 1. Put all the mourners and friends out of the room
 - Lack of faith: These had given up showing dresses in remembrance
 - Knelt down
 - Prayed
 - Turned to the "body" tent and speaks

Tabatha...arise

2. Spirit/Soul fill the tent
3. Opens her eyes, sees Peter and sits up

41 Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

- Peter holds out his hand and lifts her up
- Calls to those outside to come in

Peter denied Jesus and now doing what Jesus did?

- **Greater works:** More of the same work!

Matthew 14:12...the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do

- Peter raised the dead by the power of Jesus

Matthew 9:18 While [Jesus] spoke these things to them, behold, a ruler came and worshiped Him, saying, "**My daughter has just died, but come and lay Your hand on her and she will live.**" 19 So Jesus arose and followed him, and so did His disciples. [Woman bleeding for 12 years interrupts, touches Jesus robe and is healed...ruler waits]

...23 When Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd wailing, 24 He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him. 25 But when the crowd was put outside, He went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. 26 And the report of this went out into all that land.

Mark 5: 42 Immediately the girl arose and walked, for she was **twelve years of age.**

SUMMARY: Greater Works

- Why? Why miracles. Why healing. Not for sake of Miracle or Healing...

42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and **many believed on the Lord.** 43 So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.

- Peter stayed many days with **Simon the Tanner**
 1. **Jewish Law:** Strictly forbids Jews to associate with anyone who routinely worked with dead animals
 2. **Ceremonial Law** melts in the Light of the Face the Lord Jesus Christ
 - **Jesus is the substance of the shadow** [Ceremony]
 - **Jesus is the fulfillment of the type**
 - **Jesus is the model for the illustration**

Colossians 1:17 [Ceremonial Law is...] a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. [Jesus is here and what He says is clean...is clean]

Human need overrides written code of Ceremonial Law [not eternal moral law].

Peter stayed with the unclean, unwashed...many days.

Lays foundation for the Peter in next chapter

- **Many believed on the Lord...not Peter. Not Pope. The Lord**
- Tabitha: Not raised from dead for Tabitha but for those who would believe/ be saved
- Ruler's daughter: Not raised from dead for the daughter but for those who would believe and be saved
- Woman bleeding for 12 years was not healed only for her quality of life but that other would believe and be saved by faith in the healer...Jesus
- We are not saved only to be delivered from sin and live forever with the Lord but so other might believe

Keep focus in book of Acts. God's desire that all men are saved

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- Maybe the miracle we perform and see people saved is to love those who don't deserve it as God has done for us!

