

The Miracles Of Jesus...Through His People!

Acts 9:32-43

Meditation: Are you seeking opportunities to be used by God?

What is the greatest miracle that God can do for us? Some would call the healing of the body God's greatest miracle, while others would vote for the raising of the dead. However, I think that the greatest miracle of all is the salvation of a lost sinner. Why? Because salvation costs the greatest price, it produces the greatest results, and it brings the greatest glory to God. -

Warren Wiersbe

Acts 9:32 (NKJV): 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.

-It's important to remember Acts is not an exhaustive recollection. Luke is focusing on key

events and players, not on everything that was going on.

-This was important because it showed they had changed their pattern of thinking.

Acts 9:33 (NKJV): There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden

eight years and was paralyzed.

-As Peter was out ministering to people, he found a man who God wanted to heal.

Peter wasn't

out looking for him, he was just doing his job.

-Peter was just going about his day when God brought Him a divine appointment.

What I want

you to think about is that God wants to use you in the same way.

-When You are at the gas station, at your job, at your school or college, be open for the divine

opportunities God gives you.

-First of all, we can't just expect to sit in a chair and people to just fall in our lap so we

can preach the gospel.

-Secondly, we need to all be open to the Lord bringing divine appointments to us.

-Be sensitive to opportunities the Lord might bring your way, those not in your to do list.

-There's one more major miracle here in the next verse.

Acts 9:34-35 (NKJV): And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you.

Arise and

make your bed." Then he arose immediately. So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him

and turned to the Lord.

-Peter made it clear who it was who healed Aeneas, it was Jesus. Jesus healed people with His own power, but Peter didn't have power to heal, it was Jesus through Peter.
-They saw the evidence of God's power and Peter used that to bring God's message.
-You can do that too, because you are a walking miracle.

Acts 9:36 (NKJV): 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.

-Now Luke takes us over to the city of Joppa, which was near Lydda where Peter was. He talks

about this believer named Tabitha.

-She was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did.

-Tabitha was known as a "doer of the word and not a hearer only" like James tells us to be. She

sets a great example to follow.

Acts 9:37-38 (NKJV): But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When

they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 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.

-When the believers heard Peter was near, they went to him and begged him to come.

-They were likely hoping he'd be able to heal her of her sickness if they had left before she

died, or at least hoping he could help the community through their grief over her death.

Acts 9:39-42 (NKJV): 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. 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. Then he gave her his hand and lifted

her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became

known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

-Nowhere does the book of Acts give us the idea that Christians expected people Who had died

to be brought back to life as a common or popular occurrence. The miracle is recorded because

it was out of the ordinary and remarkable. These believers were not expecting Peter to bring her back to life.

-This is good for us to keep in mind. Sometimes we go out on a mission trip and we see God do

something amazing, and then we put the things happening back home as dull or ordinary.

-First off, God is doing things right here, and you might not notice because you're looking to the other country instead of what's in front of you.

-Secondly, God can do miracles, but just because someone isn't miraculously healed, or

raised from the dead, or levitated or whatever, doesn't mean God is not working.

-You want to see God work? Plug in and serve with energy and joy, and see how God will

reveal to you He was working powerfully all along, you just didn't notice or get involved

enough to see.

-Peter felt there was something more. See it seems his mind remembered back to Mark 5, where

Jesus walked in to a similar situation where the daughter of a ruler of a synagogue had died.

-Peter simply did as Jesus did. Jesus was his leader, mentor, and master.

Acts 9:43 (NKJV): So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.

-Peter stayed with a tanner. Now a tanner was not someone who ran a tanning salon. It was

someone who dealt with dead animals and made things with their skin. See to the Jews of the

time, this was shocking, because the law prohibited associating with people who made a living

of working with dead animals.

-According to the law of the time, a tanner had to live 75 feet outside a village because he was

continually ritually unclean. In fact the job was so looked down upon that if a girl was betrothed

to be married to a guy, and she didn't know he was a tanner till later, the marriage was null and

void.

-The miracle was God's work in Peter's heart. He was becoming less concerned about Jewish

traditions and ceremonial ideas, and more focused on getting the gospel out and making

disciples.

-What's the main point we can apply our lives from this?

-As we go through our regular routine, make sure we are close to Jesus, walking in obedience to Him.

- We need to be making sure we are Spirit filled, that we are asking for the Holy Spirit to empower us and help us throughout the day.
- We need to be sensitive and alert to the opportunities God is giving us.