



Sermon Series: Acts

Sermon Title: Dead, Not Anymore!

Date: 7/20/2025

### Acts 9:32–43

**Big Idea: When sickness, death, or loneliness comes, speak the name: Jesus.**

Our passage from Acts 9:32–43 reveals a powerful truth: Jesus continues to bring life where there is death, healing where there is sickness, and friendship where there is isolation. Through Peter's ministry, we see miracles that lead many to turn to the Lord.

To glorify Jesus means more than just singing worship songs or preaching sermons - it means living in a way that reflects His greatness, making Him known, honored, and central in every situation, especially when people are hurting.

#### **1. You Can Speak the Name of Jesus in Times of Sickness (Acts 9:32–35)**

Peter travels to Lydda and meets Aeneas, a man paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. Instead of offering sympathy or advice, Peter says, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed" (Acts 9:34). Immediately, Aeneas is healed.

Peter doesn't claim credit. He makes it clear: Jesus did this. And the result is powerful: "All the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord" (Acts 9:35).

This shows us that moments of sickness - ours or others' can become moments to glorify Jesus. In a world that avoids spiritual language, we are often tempted to offer vague comfort. But this passage calls us to speak boldly: not just about good vibes or positive thoughts, but about Jesus, the true healer.

#### **2. You Can Speak the Name of Jesus in Times of Death (Acts 9:36–42)**

In Joppa, a beloved disciple named Tabitha (Dorcas) dies. Her community doesn't bury her right away; they send for Peter. It's a long journey, but they believe there's still hope.

When Peter arrives, mourners show him the garments Tabitha made. Rather than offering condolences, Peter kneels, prays, and says, “Tabitha, arise” (**Acts 9:40**). She opens her eyes and lives again.

This echoes past moments when God raised the dead through Elijah (**1 Kings 17**), Elisha (**2 Kings 4**), and Jesus Himself (**Luke 7:14**). The power of resurrection belongs to God, and Peter makes it clear that Jesus is still the source of life.

Again, the result is belief: “It became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord” (**Acts 9:42**). Even in death, Jesus brings life. Today, in hospital rooms, funerals, and seasons of grief, we can still speak His name and declare His hope.

### **3. You Can Glorify Jesus in Times of Loneliness (**Acts 9:43**)**

The passage ends with a quiet detail: “And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner” (**Acts 9:43**). Tanners were social outcasts, unclean under Jewish law. Most people avoided them. But Peter doesn’t. He stays in Simon’s home.

This matters. Peter, once shaped by religious separation, is now changed by the gospel. He’s willing to enter uncomfortable spaces to reflect Jesus’ love. This moment prepares him for the next chapter, when God will call him to bring the gospel to Gentiles.

Today, loneliness is widespread. Many feel forgotten, unseen, or unworthy. But this story reminds us: Jesus hasn’t forgotten them, and He calls His people to show up. Being present with the lonely glorifies Jesus just as much as preaching from a stage.

**Be Ready to Speak His Name -** Sickness will come. Death will come. Loneliness will come. When they do, be ready to glorify Jesus. Speak His name.

How can you prepare?

- Expect hardship, and trust Jesus to meet you in it.
- Don’t shy away from speaking His name when others stay silent.
- Let the Holy Spirit use you to point people to Jesus.
- Show up for the hurting. Live in a way that makes Jesus famous.

The gospel brings life where there’s death, healing where there’s sickness, and love where there’s loneliness.

### Discussion Questions:

- In Acts 9:34, Peter says, “Jesus Christ heals you.” Why do you think he makes Jesus the focus instead of himself? What does that teach us about how we speak into others' pain?
- The believers in Joppa delayed Tabitha’s burial and sent for Peter. What does that reveal about their faith? How do we respond when a situation looks hopeless?
- Verse 42 says that many believed in the Lord after Tabitha was raised. How does seeing God work in someone else’s life strengthen your own faith?
- Why is Peter’s decision to stay with Simon the tanner significant? What does it say about the kind of people Jesus calls us to engage with?
- When have you had the chance to speak the name of Jesus in a hard situation, like sickness, loss, or loneliness? What held you back or gave you boldness?