



## Sermon Discussion Guide

04.16.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Acts 9:32-43

### Key Scriptures:

*Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.*

*Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside, 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. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.*

- Acts 9:32-43

### Message Highlights:

- Our ongoing "YES" to Jesus is a life of serving the Kingdom of God.
- If we believe in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, then we should be passionate about taking our next steps with Jesus and the Spirit.
- Miracles don't solve anything eternal but rather point to the One who makes eternal redemption possible.
- Jesus and the Spirit's work is about restoring God's Kingdom and helping us experience a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.



### **Conversation Starter:**

Can you remember a time that you took the scary first step in a new chapter of your life? Whether you timidly walked into the first day of school or packed up the last box for a big move, in what ways did you grow because of your willingness to move forward?

### **Discuss the Message:**

1. How does Peter exemplify obedience to God's prompting in Acts 9:32?
  - a. Read Acts 8:14-15, the last place that Peter is mentioned before Acts 9:32. How did Peter's previous 'yes' in Jerusalem enable him to heal Aeneas and Tabitha?
  - b. Where do you sense that the Spirit wants you to be obediently sent to serve others and glorify him?
2. How does the miraculous healing of Aeneas make a Kingdom impact that reaches far beyond Aeneas' situation?
  - a. Have you ever encountered someone whose faith in Jesus was so unwavering that it led you to say another ongoing "yes" to God?
  - b. How can you leverage the ways that you currently serve in order to encourage others as they partner with Christ in their own lives?
3. How is Tabitha the disciple described in Acts 9:36?
  - a. In the passage, the widows that Tabitha ministered to mourn her death because they remember her generosity and charity. At this point in time, what do you realistically think you'd be remembered for?
  - b. What do you ideally want to be remembered for as God's child and servant; how does that differ from your answer to the previous question?
  - c. What can we conclude from God's healing of Tabitha when it comes to how we should treat the most vulnerable among us?

### **Pray:**

*God, we thank you for bringing a glimpse of Heaven to Earth through your son Jesus Christ. Thanks for the chance we have each day to say "yes" to you and to partner with you in moving the Kingdom of God forward. May we steward the opportunities you give us to serve and impact others well, and trust your ability to incline the hardest of hearts to your Spirit. We know that nothing is impossible for you, and we're grateful that you make eternal redemption possible for each of us. In Jesus' name, amen.*