




Power to Witness in Word and Deed*The Book of Acts***Acts 9:32–43****Read Acts 9:32–43.**

1. During this time of peace (9:31), Peter travels around the country.
 - a. What motivates Peter's travels? (Mt. 28:18–20; Jn. 21:15–17; Acts 1:8)
 - b. Whom does he visit? (v. 32)
 - c. In the Bible, the word "saint" refers to anyone who believes in Christ. What other words are used to describe believers? (4:29; 5:11; 6:2–3; 9:2, 14)
2. Try to go beyond the words in verse 33 to describe the paralytic man in Lydda. (Consider: What would it have been like for him on a daily basis? What were his prospects in life? What were his needs?)
3. Peter finds Aeneas the paralytic and heals him.
 - a. Read Mark 2:1–12, paying close attention to verse 11. What similarities do you see between these two miracles?
 - b. What is the main difference between these two miracles? (v. 34; Mk. 2:11; * Acts 3:12–16)
4. What effect does the healing have on the community? (v. 35)
5. Why do you think there is such a positive response to this healing? (You may want to consider Mk. 2:12 and Acts 3:6–11.)

*The  symbol indicates verses for further study.

6. While in Lydda, Peter is summoned to Joppa.
 - a. Why? (vv. 36–38)
 - b. What do you think the saints there expected of Peter?
7. What kind of woman is Tabitha? (vv. 36, 39) Read a little between the lines to further describe her.
8. After praying, Peter commands the dead woman, Tabitha, to get up. What pattern do you see Peter following in this miracle? (Mk. 5:35–42)
9. What effect does the healing have on Tabitha's community? (v. 42)
10. What miracle greater than physical healing is tucked into this week's passage? (vv. 35, 42;  Jn. 5:24)
11. The preaching recorded in Acts is full of the language of the death and resurrection of Jesus.
 - a. Both people highlighted in this week's passage are described as those who are physically "dead" in some way. How do the miracles they experienced illustrate what happens in our lives spiritually? (Eph. 2:1, 4–6; Rom. 6:4; 2 Cor. 5:17)
 - b. These miracles also provide a foretaste of the salvation all believers will one day experience, the "full restoration of the whole person."ⁱ Choose one of the following passages to meditate on: 1 Cor. 15:42–57; 1 Thess. 4:13–18; Rev. 21:1–5. Jot down some of your thoughts about how Jesus' resurrection gives you great hope for the future!

ⁱ William J. Larkin, *Acts, Cornerstone Biblical Commentary* (Carol Stream: Tyndale, 2006), 466.