

Acts: Healing & Restoration

Acts 9:31-43

Growth & Healing (v. 31-35)

- Luke summarizes the growth of the Church (v. 31)
 - Regionally: Judea, Galilee, Samaria
 - Spiritually: peace, fear of the Lord, comfort of the Holy Spirit
- He transitions from a focus on Saul to Peter
- Peter is traveling throughout the Judean countryside as an Apostle
 - Sharing Christ with those who don't know Him
 - Encouraging & equipping those who do
- In Lydda, Peter encounters Aeneas among the saints
 - Aeneas has been paralyzed & bed-ridden for 8 years
- Unprovoked, Peter heals him, and commands Aeneas to rise and make his bed
 - Recalling the work of Jesus (Luke 5:24)
- Aeneas' healing becomes a sign for the community of which he is a part
 - Causing many to trust in Jesus

Restoration & Growth (v. 36-42)

- In the nearby city of Joppa/Jaffa was a disciple named Tabitha/Dorcas, who was known for her charitable heart and acts
- When she becomes sick and dies, other disciples travel to Lydda to ask Peter for help
 - They had probably heard of the healing of Aeneas
- Upon his arrival, the widows who knew her show off her charitable handiwork

- Perhaps to impress Peter
- But, shoos them out and prays over Tabitha, commanding her to arise
 - And she does!
- The result of which is that the news spreads and more people come to Christ!

The Purpose of the Miraculous

- Why does God heal some and not others?
 - In Aeneas' case, he didn't even ask to be healed!
- The purpose of healing and other miracles is to point people to Jesus
 - Not *primarily* for the benefit of the recipient

So What?

- Do we trust God to do the miraculous?
 - For what purpose do we seek it?
- Are our lives a witness to His goodness & power?

Meditation Verse: Acts 9:42