

But Peter, putting them all out, and kneeling down, prayed. And, turning to the body, he said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes, and, seeing Peter, sat up. - Acts 9:40

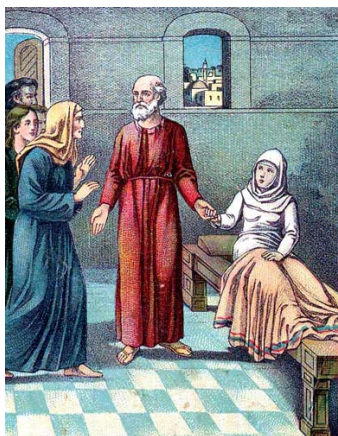
This Lesson Outline was prepared by John M. Wharton November 3, 2009
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Sources -

All bible text, unless otherwise indicated, is the Darby Translation. ASV indicates the American Standard Version, with KJV indicating the King James Version. Quotations are often included from various classic Christian commentaries such as John Gill's Expositor, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures, and others. Greek and Hebrew word definitions are often included which are from the Strong's Concordance, unless otherwise indicated. All of these sources, both the bible texts, commentaries, and word definition's are taken from the excellent source, the e-Sword Bible computer program found at <http://www.e-sword.net/index.html> unless otherwise indicated. Clipart in this lesson is courtesy of ChristiansUnite.com site at <http://clipart.christiansunite.com>

Introduction -

In Acts 9:32-43 we will see the Apostle Peter pray for the healing of several people. In the first incident Peter prays for a lame man in Lydda, who is healed. This causes the conversion of many in the area. In the second event he prays for a believer named Tabitha who has died. She does come back to life, and the event is told widely throughout the area around Joppa leading to the conversion of many there. While there Peter stays with a tanner named Simon. Since tanners weren't respected by the religious Jews, that may indicate Peter is beginning to realize that the Gospel is for everyone.



Peter raises Dorcas.

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The Lesson text is from Acts 9:32-43

The lesson text used here is from The Darby Translation which is in the Public Domain from the excellent website CCEL (Christian Classics Ethereal Library) at <http://www.ccel.org/>.

32 Now it came to pass that Peter, passing through all [quarters], descended also to the saints who inhabited Lydda.

33 And he found there a certain man, Aeneas by name, who had been lying for eight years upon a couch, who was paralysed.

34 And Peter said to him, Aeneas, Jesus, the Christ, heals thee: rise up, and make thy couch for thyself. And straightway he rose up.

Definitions per Strongs Concordance in the e-Sword Bible program -
heals thee – The Greek word for heals here is “...[ἰάομαι](#) ...to cure...”.

G2390 [ἰάομαι](#) iaomai ee-ah'-om-ah-ee Middle voice of apparently a primary verb; to *cure* (literally or figuratively): - heal, make whole.

And Aeneas was healed because “..he arose immediately..” as the King James Version puts it, and made his bed straightway which is the Greek word “..[εὐθέως](#)...meaning at once or soon... “.

G2112 [εὐθέως](#) eutheōs yoo-theh'-oce Adverb from [G2117](#); *directly*, that is, *at once* or *soon*: - anon, as soon as, forthwith, immediately, shortly, straightway.

35 And all who inhabited Lydda and the Saron saw him, who turned to the Lord.

Comments -

People knew about the man's condition, and word spread quickly about his healing. They knew he was healed by one of the followers of Jesus or Nazareth.

Although the Darby translation above says that the people of the area saw the man who was healed, and converted, most translations (including the KJV below) say that the people of the area saw the man who was healed and were also converted themselves because of this miracle.

Act 9:35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord. - KJV

36 And in Joppa there was a certain female disciple, by name Tabitha, which being interpreted means Dorcas. She was full of good works and alms- deeds which she did.

37 And it came to pass in those days that she grew sick and died; and, having washed her, they put her in [the] upper room.

38 But Lydda being near to Joppa, the disciples having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, beseeching him, Thou must not delay coming to us.

Comments -

Tabitha was so kind to the others in the community that she was greatly missed when she passed away. The people knew that the Apostle Peter was close by in Lydda and they sent two men asking him to come and pray for her. On the map, Lydda and Joppa appear to be a little less than 15 miles apart. These believers had wonderful faith, and believed that if Peter would only come and pray for Tabitha she would be raised from the dead.

39 And Peter rising up went with them, whom, when arrived, they brought up into the upper chamber; and all the widows stood by him weeping and shewing him the body-coats and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.

Comments -

Peter didn't delay but went with them. Tabitha, had been very busy during her life helping the other believers in her community, making clothes for them, and we can suspect, probably helping in other ways as well. She was already missed terribly.

40 But Peter, putting them all out, and kneeling down, prayed. And, turning to the body, he said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes, and, seeing Peter, sat up.

Comments -

...putting them all out... The Apostle Peter sought God's presence in this matter, and then spoke to Tabitha telling her, in effect, to return to life. God answered his pray restoring her to life.

41 And having given her [his] hand, he raised her up, and having called the saints and the widows, presented her living.

42 And it became known throughout the whole of Joppa, and many believed on the Lord.

Comments -

...it became known throughout the whole of Joppa... - Word about something incredible like this spread among the people throughout the area around Joppa.

...and many believed on the Lord... - Many unbelievers turned to faith in Jesus Christ as they heard the events of Tabitha's death, witnessed by many, and of the Apostle Peter's prayer of faith, and her return to life.

43 And it came to pass that he remained many days in Joppa with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Comments -

...with a certain Simon, a tanner... - Some commentaries (such as Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown, and Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures) note that the Jewish people looked down on the profession of tanner. But Peter was willing to stay with this Simon, a tanner, while here in Joppa. These commentators think he was beginning to understand that God intended to move past Jewish traditions, and the Old Testament Law to reach out to others, including the Gentiles. So we may see here the start of a softening in Peter's Orthodox Jewish stance. But we will see in chapter 10 that he is still very wedded to his Jewish upbringing, unable to eat food not kosher even when God gives it to him. This will ultimately lead to the command to go to the Gentile Cornelius' house and preach the Gospel.

Conclusion -

In this study of the verses in Acts 9:32-43 we saw that the Apostle Peter prayed for the healing of several people with their healing causing many conversions to the faith. In the first incident Peter prays for a lame man in Lydda. He is healed and this causes the conversion of many in the area. In the second event Peter went to Joppa, and prayed for a believing woman named Tabitha who had died. She does come back to life, and the event is told widely throughout the area around Joppa leading to the conversion of many. When Peter is willing to stay with the tanner Simon, we may be seeing the beginning of his realization that the Gospel is for everyone, and not just the Orthodox Jewish believers. Sources tell us that tanners, as a profession, were not well respected by the religious Jews.