



FOLLOWERS OF JESUS – ACTS 9:32-43

GETTING STARTED

Whenever you need to make accomplish a big task, its usually best to break it up into smaller sections to be able to get it done. If you want to read a big book, you need to just read one page at a time. The same thing is true of how God leads his church throughout the book of Acts. Jesus gave them a commission to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth but they couldn't accomplish that all at once. Instead, God gives them bit by bit ways to see how the task would be accomplished. This passage is two perfect examples of how God teaches his church both to be a follower of Jesus and also how he would lead them to the ends of the earth. The gospel up until now had been mainly preached in Jewish areas, but these two cities mark a turning point. The gospel would be taken outside of the Jewish world so that all the nations could hear. God can and would work in power to see the gospel of Jesus go forth and many people come to believe. The call for us as followers of Jesus is to then rely on the gift of the Holy Spirit and follow his example.

READ THE TEXT: ACTS 9:32-43

³² Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed. ³⁴ And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. ³⁵ And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

³⁶ Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. ³⁷ In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. ³⁸ 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." ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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. ⁴¹ And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. ⁴² And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³ And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. Read Luke 5:23-25 and Luke 8:51-56. How do these examples of Jesus healings compare to Peter? What was the point of Jesus healing people in those passages? Is that different from Peter’s goal?
2. How do these two accounts help us understand the movement of the gospel in the Early Church? How does this set the stage for Cornelius in chapter 10?

APPLY THE TEXT

3. What are the names of your neighbours around you? What big spiritual questions do they have? How can you find out and help them understand the gospel better?
4. How are you currently using your spiritual gifts? What are some ways that you could pursue them or how can others come alongside you as you serve?

SHARE & PRAY

1. As we study the book of Acts, think carefully about 1 or 2 people that you would like to actively share the gospel with. Share them with your life group and hold one another accountable in prayer and support.
2. In light of Acts 9:32-43 pray that God would help you rely on the Holy Spirit as you serve and imitate Jesus as you seek to glorify God!

