



Rise Up

Introduction: The story shifts back to Peter as he is ministering to the people in Lydda. He healed a man that had been paralyzed for eight years and many people turned to the Lord due to the miracle. Peter is then called upon to come to a neighboring town where a lady had died. The Lord uses Peter to do another miracle; and the miracle helped many believe in the Lord.

Text: Acts 9:32-43

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: What were the circumstances in your life that lead you to believe in Jesus? Discuss/Write
2. We have studied the book of Acts from chapter one up to chapter nine. There are several miraculous events that take place through the power of the Spirit. What is one constant result in the miraculous? Why is this significant to notice?
3. Read Luke 5:17-26 and Acts 9:32-35 What are the similarities? What are the differences?
4. Why did Peter tell him to make his bed?
5. Read Luke 4:18-19. The picture of Aeneas's healing is that of restoration. Though most of us are not physically paralyzed, we are emotionally paralyzed. We can be paralyzed by: fear, regret, shame, anger, bitterness, depression, stress, worry, anxiety, un-forgiveness, etc. Is there anything paralyzing you from walking in the victory of Christ?
6. Read Romans 8:1-17 How can we walk in victory over sin?
7. What was the reputation of Tabitha?
8. What does it mean to be full of good works and acts of charity? Discuss/Write what a person like Tabitha would look like?
9. How do we know that she made an impact on the widows in her community?
10. Tabitha lived her life for the glory of God and the good of others. What passion of service has the Lord burdened your heart for? How will you be a blessing to other people . . . what will you do?
11. Tabitha being brought back to life is a picture of redemption. The Bible says that we are dead in our sins. We must be born again. Conversion takes place when the Holy Spirit breathes life into a dead man's soul. Have you experienced new life in Christ?
12. We will all give an account for our life. If you were to die today, would the Lord be pleased with how you have lived your life for the glory of God and the good of others? What will you do to focus your mind on living a life that is pleasing to the Lord and a blessing to others?

Think About it:

We are all going to die . . . and it will be sooner than we think. The reality is that life is like a vapor. Those who live to be in their 90's always say the same thing, "Wow, life flew by." We only have one life to live. We can either live it to pursue the pleasures of self or we can pursue the passions of Christ. Too many of us never think about heaven or life eternal. What if we began living our life with the simple purpose of bringing honor to Jesus and blessing those around us? I believe our life would be totally changed.

Moving Forward:

Focus your life this week on bringing glory to God. Spend quality time in prayer and bible reading. Ask the Lord to burden your heart for a group of people that you can minister to and bless.