"…it became known throughout all Joppa, and many **believed in the Lord**."

What's going on here?

Healing

"Peter has done miracles earlier, so the question is, Why have more miracles here? The answer seems to be that Luke is setting up the next event, where Cornelius is the first full Gentile to come to the Lord. The point is that God is till working quite powerfully through this apostle, as he becomes God's instrument to make this breakthrough." (Darrell Bock, p. 375)

Healings before this passage

- signs and wonders included healings
- healings were predominately performed by the apostles
- God is the source of all healing
- healings attested both the message and the messenger
- some acknowledged the healing but rejected its sign
- healing illustrated both the sin of man and the faith of man
- many were not healed

Healings in this passage

- two healings (paralyzed, dead)
- both are named (Aeneas, Tabitha)
- a man and a woman are healed (both already believers)
- both are reminiscent of Elijah/Elisha and Jesus

Peter

"These two stories prepare for Peter's crucial role in the mission to gentiles (9:43-11:18), both by locating him in the coastal plain near to Cornelius's home in Caesarea Maritima (10:1) and by showing his role as a divine agent." (Steve Walton, pp. 609-610)

- he is moved along by ordinary means, geographically and ethnically
- he is involved in both edification and evangelism
- he is seen to be a true minister beyond Jerusalem, closer to Gentiles
- he is provided an opportunity to gain personal confidence in the work of God through him…

  -- Peter is eventually summoned, not Philip (8:40)
  -- Peter is initially hesitant, not willing (11:17)

Sunday, November 08, 2026
Danny Capon, *Pastor*

ACTS—The Confident Witness of Jesus Christ
No. 23 | Witnessing beyond Jerusalem, pt. 4

Acts 9:32-43

Review

Acts depicts the *continuing* ministry of Jesus Christ. Though he has ascended, the witness of Jesus continues by the power of the Spirit through the spread of the gospel for the growth of the church. Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ can and should be confident following his way.

(1:1-26) Waiting for the Spirit—Confirming the Twelve Apostles

(2:1-47) Receiving of the Spirit—Birthing the Church

What then do we see in Acts 3 and following?

The witness of Jesus Christ goes from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. How?

What did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ encounter?

How did the witness (and witnesses) of Jesus Christ prevail?

Witnessing beyond Jerusalem, pt. 4 **9:32-43**

Overview

(3:1-8:3) Witnessing in Jerusalem

(8:4-12:25) Witnessing beyond Jerusalem

Who is the witness of Jesus Christ *for*?

Who needs it? Who can receive it? Who should hear it? Who needs to respond to it?

What does the witness of Jesus Christ come up against as it goes beyond Jerusalem?

(8:5-40) Philip takes the witness of Jesus Christ beyond the Jewish people

(9:1-31) Jesus chooses Saul to take his witness to the Jewish people and beyond

(**9:32-11:18**) God prepares Peter to support his Son's witness going to the Gentiles

(**9:32-43**) **He sees the Lord work through him and moves closer to Gentiles**

(10:1-48) He visits Gentiles and proclaims to them the witness of Jesus

(11:1-18) He defends the witness of Jesus going to the Gentiles

Peter's ministry demonstrates that the witness of Jesus Christ is for people who are beyond the Jews—it is *even* for the Gentiles (non-Jews).

What just happened?

ESV **Acts 9:31** So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

"the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace…"

"…being built up…"

"…walking in the fear of the Lord and encouragement of the Holy Spirit…"

"…it multiplied." (See also, 6:1, 7; and 12:24)

- There is one Christ, who is Jesus the Son of God.
- This Jesus Christ who has died and risen from the dead is the only savior of the world.
- The witness of Jesus Christ must be shared and received by obedient repentance and faith in order to have the forgiveness of sins.
- The witness of Jesus Christ is for everyone and shared by anyone who is a believer in him.
- Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ receive the Holy Spirit and give themselves to water baptism.
- Those who hear and believe the witness of Jesus Christ are identified together with others who have similarly heard and believed, and commit to mutually build each other up in him by the word.
- As this takes place with more people in more places—as the word increases and as the church is built up—the church multiplies.

What happens now?

ESV **Acts 9:32** Now as Peter went here and there among them all…

Peter sees the Lord work through him… (9:32-43)

…**in Lydda** (vv. 32-35)

ESV **Acts 9:32** 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.

"…the **saints** who lived at **Lydda**."

"…he found a man named Aeneas…who was **paralyzed**."

"…Peter said to him…"

'Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; **rise** and make your bed.'

And immediately he rose.

"…all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they **turned to the Lord**."

…**in Joppa** (vv. 36-43)

ESV **Acts 9:36** 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.

"…there was in **Joppa** a **disciple** named Tabitha…"

which, translated, means Dorcas

she was full of good works and acts of charity

she became ill and **died**

they washed her…laid her in the upper room

"…the disciples…sent two men to (Peter)…so Peter…went with them."

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And she opened her eyes, and…she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.