

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral  
Lesson 20 “The Ministry of Healing”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *Acts*. We are going through the entire book and looking at how the Church was born in revival and this caused the Gospel to go viral.

A. We've studied multiple revivals in the early church. These include Pentecost in *Acts 2* - 3,000 saved, healing of lame man - *Acts 3-4* - 5,000 saved, signs and wonders and the healings off Peter's shadow - *Acts 5* - all Jerusalem filled with the doctrine of Christ., and the revival in Samaria - *Acts 8* - All of the city filled with joy.

B. The last two weeks we have studied the first part of *Acts 9* where the Apostle Paul is introduced to us. We studied his calling and the early years of his ministry where he got a little ahead of God because he didn't discern his season.

1. As we study *Acts* we'll notice the last half of the book transition its focus from Peter, James, John, etc. and begin to focus more on Paul, Silas, Timothy, etc.
2. Prior to that we will see scenes that feature Peter and the early Apostles and then scenes that focus on Paul and his early ministry. Today, we will focus on another scene where Peter took the gospel to the countryside outside Jerusalem.

II. The Ministry of Healing

A. **Acts 9:32-35** The Healing at Lydda

1. Peter came to Lydda which is 30 miles outside of Jerusalem. He came to the saints which implies he was coming to teach the word and strengthen their faith.
2. He discovered a man named Aeneas who was paralyzed and been bedridden eight years and healed him. **How?**
  - a. The Lord Jesus the Christ “anointed one” heals you. Peter's dependency was on the anointing. The word anoint means to smear, which is symbolic of the presence of God. David was anointed with oil when he was named king. **We must realize it is Jesus that brings the healing, not us. Isaiah 10:27 - we look to Him to release the healing.**
    - i. Jesus healed people different ways. Spit in mud and rubbed it on eyes, cast out demons, laid hands on the sick, spoke to ailments.
  - b. Peter made a declaration. He declared what he wanted.
    - i. **Mark 11:22-24** - Jesus taught us to speak to situations (mountains and command them to move). We are to declare what we desire in accordance with the will of God. God calls those things that be not as though they are - this isn't New Age, its Bible.
    - ii. This is a fulfillment of *John 14:12*. *John 5:5-9* healing of lame man at pool of Bethesda, healing of lame man in *Mark 2*.

iii. All in Lydda and Sharon turned to the Lord. Again we see signs and wonders are necessary for revival.

#### B. Acts 9:36-42 The Healing of Dorcas

1. Disciples heard Peter had been in Lydda and they sent for him. Most likely they heard about the miraculous healing of the lame man in Lydda. **Romans 10:17** *faith comes by hearing* which caused them to send for him and **Revelation 19:10** *the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.* ex: Keith's testimony
2. The miracles at Lydda built faith and expectancy in some in Joppa so they sent for Peter.
3. When Peter arrived he noticed many were weeping (not faith) and he put them out of the upper room. Why? My opinion is there was an atmosphere of unbelief.
  - a. **Mark 6:4-6** what we expect from Jesus can determine what we will receive. Unbelief kept these Jesus from doing mighty works.
  - b. **Luke 8:49-55** Jesus put people out of the room who were in unbelief when he healed Jairus's daughter.
  - c. Atmosphere's can determine our ability to receive which is why we try to partner with God to build faith every Sunday.
4. It became known throughout Joppa and many believed on the Lord.
  - a. Andrew Wommack - Pritchett, Colorado testimony. He raised a person from the dead and the church get from 12 to 100 in a town of 144.

III. Conclusion - As I close I understand many people were blessed by today and they now are strengthened in faith and want to go out and pray for the sick. Awesome! Others aren't so sure. I would encourage you to study out the word and see if these things are true. You don't have to quit the church because we believe in praying for the sick and seeing them healed. We don't have to agree on every point to be family. A church is family. Satan tries to divide when this message is taught because that is what he's good at.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer