

Sermon Series:
“Giving Your Life Away”
A Force for Good in our Communities

November 15, 2009
Acts 9:32-43



Time in the Word

Read & Observe: Acts 9:32-43

Twenty-five miles northwest of Jerusalem a different ministry will take shape for Peter. It will lead him into a greater understanding of God's plan for all “creatures” (Matt. 28). Along the way hope is born in a healing, the Christian community grows, and a ministry is restored. All three of these miracles are hallmarks of the Holy Spirit at work in His body. And all of this in plain view of those who do not know or have not heard of Jesus Christ. Is it still true today?

Answer

1. Why do you think Peter wanted to visit the believers in Lydda?
Think about the last time you visited a believer in Christ. What things were you listening for? What things did you not want to hear?
2. Divine appointments are not to be missed. What do you find remarkable about the healing of Aeneas? What does it say about Peter's life focus? How did Peter know Jesus would heal Aeneas?
3. Have you ever seen or heard of someone being healed like this? Who got the credit? What was the result of this particular healing by Peter? Whose faith was responsible for this healing? Why?
4. Ten miles to the west a ministry ended. What was that ministry? What impact would losing this ministry have on the community? A deep thought: Did they lose Tabitha, or what Tabitha did?
5. When Peter met all the widows, what do you think he saw? Why do you think he didn't want them to stay while he prayed for Tabitha's restoration?
6. When you picture Peter down on his knees, what comes to mind? When you think of Dorcas (Tabitha) coming back to life, what is the first thing you think of? Whose faith brought Tabitha back to life?
7. What happened as a result of the restoration of Tabitha? How do you think the disciples were changed? How about Peter?



Time for the Heart

When Peter comes into the faith community at Lydda his life would be changed. So would many around him. His ministry was to go out encourage and serve the believers. Tabitha served right where she was in Lydda. Where has God called you? What things have you “stumbled” into that now define your ministry? Almost all ministries start out organically. Great ministries have three excellent ingredients: A godly heart, a healing hand, and then a heavenly home! Does yours?

