

## Peter's First Missionary Journey: The Diversity of the Gospel

Acts 9:30-10:2/ April 15, 2023

**Introduction: CAESAREA: Paul Flees to Tarsus to Escape the Plot to Kill Him** (9:30, ESV)

And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

### 1. LYDDA: Peter Witnesses to Lydda as Aeneas is Healed: Many Believed in Jesus (9:31-35, ESV)

#### Jesus Heals a Lame Man

And when he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no more room, not even at the door. And he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a **paralytic** carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and when they had made an opening, they let down the bed on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—

1. **"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home."**
2. **And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all,**
3. **so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"** (Mark 2:1-12, ESV)

#### Why Did Peter Go?

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. Now as Peter went here and there among them all,

#### Where Did Peter Visit?

he came down also to the **saints** who lived at Lydda.

#### Who Did Peter Heal?

There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed.

#### How Did Peter Heal?

And Peter said to him, "*Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.*" And immediately **he rose.**

#### What Did Peter Witness?

And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

### 2. JOPPA: Peter Witnesses to Joppa as Tabitha is Raised: Many Believed in Jesus (9:36-43, ESV)

#### Jesus Raises a Dead Girl

Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name, and seeing him, he fell at his feet and implored him earnestly, saying, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." **And he went with him.** And a great crowd followed him and thronged about him. (Mark 5:21-24, ESV)

While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James. **They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping."** And they laughed at him. **But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.** Taking her by the hand he said to her, "**Talitha cumi,**" which means, "**Little girl, I say to you, arise.**" **And immediately the girl got up and began walking** (for she was twelve years of age), and **they were immediately overcome with amazement.** And he strictly charged them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat. (Mark 5:35-43, ESV)

**Where Did Peter Visit?**

Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.

**Who Did Peter Heal?**

In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.

**Why Did Peter Go?**

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.”*

**How Did Peter Heal?**

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. 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. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

**What Did Peter Witness?**

And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

**Conclusion: CAESAREA: Cornelius Called to Bring Peter from Joppa (10:1-2, ESV)**

At **Caesarea** there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

AENEAS		TABITHA
Lydda	TOWN	Joppa
Paralyzed for 8 years	CONDITION	Dead for Hours
Man	GENDER	Woman
Peter visited the Disciples	VISITATION	Disciples Sent for Peter
Not a Disciple	STATUS	Disciple: Good works and charity
In a bedroom	LOCATION	In an Upper Room
Saints	PEOPLE	Widows weeping
Healed by Jesus Christ	MIRACLE	Prayed to Jesus Christ
“Rise”	COMMAND	“Arise”
“he arose”	OBEDIENCE	“she sat up”
“They turned to the Lord”	OUTCOME	“Many believed”
Peter stayed with the residents of Lydda	HOUSING	Peter stayed with Simon, the tanner