

- I) V20-22 INTRO: Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues that He is the
- II) WE HAVE SEEN: How Saul of Tarsus came to know Jesus as his savior
- III) JESUS: Had intercepted him while he was going to Damascus to persecute believers
 - a) After meeting the Lord, he went to Damascus and spent three days praying/ fasting
- IV) GOD: Had instructed Ananias to minister to Paul and he did so
- V) V19 AND: When he had received food he was strengthened. Then Saul *spent some days*
 - a) His one time venom for the believers was converted to love for them
 - 1) 1 Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.
 - 2) He spent *some days* with the disciples, perhaps stretching into some months
- VI) V20-22 IMMEDIATELY: He preached the Christ *in the synagogues* that He is the Son of
 - a) This is common for those transformed by the grace of God
 - 1) He immediately shared what God had done
 - 2) Ps 119:46 I will speak of your statutes before kings and *will not be put to shame*
- VII) HE SHARED: With the people he most closely related to
 - a) This is common for new believers: we share with our circle of acquaintances
- VIII) SHARING WITH FELLOW JEWS: Became his pattern for many years
 - a) Ro 2:10 to the Jew first and also to the Greek
- IX) THIS: Became his pattern through much of his ministry
 - a) Ac 13 (Antioch in Pisidia), 14 (Iconium), 17 (Thessalonica, then Berea, and then Athens), Ac 18 (Corinth, then Ephesus), Ac 19 (Ephesus)
- X) KEY: This was shocking both to Christians and Jews!
 - a) His incredible conversion was completely unbelievable with many not believing it

1) Gal. 1:13 You have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.

XI) HIS HATRED FOR JESUS: Became a passionate love for Him

a) 2 Co 5:14 For the love of Christ compels us...

XII) V22 NOTE: Paul *confounded* the Jews who dwelt in Damascus

a) *Confound*: To disturb the mind of one, to stir up; to bewilder

b) *Proving*: To cause a person to come to the same conclusion or opinion

I) POINT: He clearly and powerfully showed them that Jesus is the Christ

a) His teaching and preaching were intended to clearly communicate the truth

II) HE: Clearly explained the message of the cross, and gave an apologetic for it

a) This is part of the preaching of the gospel

1) Ac 19:8 And he went into the synagogue, and spoke boldly for the space of three months, *disputing* and *persuading* the things concerning the kingdom of God.

2) Ac 28:23 (Paul) expounded and testified the kingdom of God, *persuading* them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.

3) 2 Co 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, *we persuade men*;

III) V23 NOW: After *many days* were past the Jews plotted to kill him

a) He had worn out the welcome mat! The many days spoken of here are three years

1) Gal 1:17-18 I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then *after three years*, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days

IV) V24-25 BUT: Their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night

a) Paul later speaks of this to the Corinthians

1) 2 Co 11:32-33 In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

V) V26-30 AND: When Saul had come to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples but they

a) They were not open to him at all, *out of fear*

1) Gal. 1:23 They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

VI) V27 BUT BARNABAS: Took him and brought him to the apostles and he declared to them a) Barnabas vouches for Saul, and he is received by the Church

1) We met him in Ac 4:36: his name is translated Son of Encouragement

VII) PAUL AND BARNABAS: Became very close ministry friends and traveled together

a) We see them together from ch 11 to ch 15

1) They were friends and fellow ministers for many years

VIII) V28-30 SO: He was with them at Jerusalem coming in and going out

a) Hellenists attempt to kill Saul: Persecution for Jesus' sake is already breaking out

1) V16

I) KEY: He had to be sent away to Caesarea (60 mi. no of Jerusalem)

a) Tarsus was 305 miles north of Caesarea, in Turkey

1) Gal. 1:21 Later I went to Syria and Cilicia.

2) THIS: Covered a few years of his history

II) V31 THEN: The churches throughout all Judea Galilee and Samaria had peace and were

a) Things quieted down in Israel for awhile, with Paul gone!

1) During this time, God continued to move among the people, and many were saved

III) V32-35 NOW: It came to pass as Peter went through all parts of the country that he also

a) Paul is in Tarsus, and now Luke shifts his attention to the Apostle Peter

IV) KEY: The last time Peter was mentioned was in Ch 8, in Samaria

a) NOW: Peter is ministering in all parts of the country

V) KEY: This gives us insight into the continued expansion of the church

a) Ac 1:8 reveals the church is intended to reach throughout the world

b) Mk 16:15 He said to them, "Go into *all the world* and preach the good news to all creation.

c) Mk 16:20 Then the disciples went out and *preached everywhere*, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

- VI) IN CH 8: Persecution pushed many out of Jerusalem with the exception of the apostles
- a) Ac 8:4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word
- VII) AS THE WORD WAS SPREAD: Peter began to go outside of Jerusalem, to minister
- a) Ac 8:14 tells us that he went to Samaria, and ministered to the new believers
- VIII) KEY: In this passage, he is continuing his ministry journeys
- a) HE COMES: To Lydda a city northwest of Jerusalem on the seacoast
- IX) NOTICE: Peter is on the move, not just situated in some office in Jerusalem
- X) PRINCIPLE: Being active gave him greater opportunity to be used
- a) Those actively serving are often the ones to whom God grants the most opportunities
- XI) V32 NOW: It came to pass as Peter went through all the parts of the country
- a) Lydda was located 25 NW of Jerusalem, in the Sharon Plain
 - 1) Pilgrims returning from Jerusalem at Pentecost had shared the gospel
 - 2) Also, the persecution drove Christians to Lydda who were now living there
- I) V33 THERE: He found a certain man named Aeneas who had been bedridden eight year
- a) Notice how Luke refers to Aeneas *a certain man*, not a certain believer, or disciple
 - 1) This would suggest that he might not be a believer, but it is not certain
- II) V34 PETER: Said to him Aeneas Jesus the Christ heals you Arise and make your bed
- a) Literally, *this moment* Jesus Christ heals you: he is instantly healed
 - 1) Mt 8:2-3 And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus put out *His* hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." *Immediately* his leprosy was cleansed.
- III) HEALING THOSE WHO WERE PARALYZED: Is recorded several times in the NT
- a) Mk 2 records the man brought to Jesus by his four friends
 - b) Jn 5 records the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda

- c) Ac 3 records the healing of the crippled man at the Beautiful gate
- IV) HERE: Peter performs a work *in the name of Jesus*
- a) Jesus had given him this gift in His commissioning of the Apostles
 - 1) Mk 16:18 they will lay their hands on sick people, and they will get well.
- V) V34 THEN: Peter said to him Aeneas *Jesus the Christ* heals you. Arise and make your bed
- VI) PRINCIPLE: If you want to be used, make sure you seek to exalt Jesus, not yourself
- a) Ac 3:12 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by *our own power or godliness* we had made this man walk?
 - b) Ac 3:16 By faith *in the name of Jesus*, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.
- VII) PETER'S HUMILITY: Stands in contrast to some who seek their own fame today
- a) Is. 42:8 I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.
- VIII) PETER'S EXAMPLE: Was continually bringing glory to Jesus Christ
- a) 1 Pe 4:11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.
- IX) V34-35 ARISE: And make your bed
- X) AENEAS: *Had to respond* to what Peter said Jesus was doing
- a) He told him to *arise and make your bed*
- I) KEY: This healing by Jesus was total, and instant
- II) FACT: His doing so is evidence that complete recovery occurred
- III) V35 SO: All who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord
- a) This miracle was intended to draw people to faith in Jesus, and it did
- IV) FACT: The result was that great numbers turned to the Lord

a) In Acts, miracles accompany about half of the instances of effective preaching

V) **REMEMBER:** Signs were part of His credentials as Messiah

a) Jn 3:2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.

b) Ac 2:22 Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

VI) **V36-43 AT JOPPA:** There was a certain disciple named Tabitha which is translated

VII) **FACT:** Tragedy has hit the nearby church of Joppa: A wonderful believer has died

a) Notice her description: Full of good works and charitable deeds which she did

1) This reveals her character and reputation she held amongst believers

VIII) **DORCAS:** Is a shining example of what a woman of God is to be

a) She is a great model for Christian women to imitate

1) Pr 31:20 She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy.

2) Col. 1:10 We pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God

IX) **V37 BUT:** It happened in those days that she became sick and died

a) When she died, they followed customs in preparation: They washed her to prepare

1) They did not bury her immediately: They had something else in mind

2) They were going to ask God to perform a miracle, and raise her from the dead

X) **V38 AND:** Since Lydda was near Joppa and the disciples had heard that Peter was there

a) Joppa (Jaffa) was 11 miles NW of Lydda, on the coast

XI) **FACT:** They may have had heard of the healing of Aeneas

- a) It could have provoked their faith to ask the impossible
 - 1) Perhaps God would do this work on their behalf
- I) V39 THEN: Peter arose and went with them. When he had come they brought him to the
 - II) HERE: The widows shared with him what a wonderful woman this was who had died
 - a) 1 Ti 2:9-10 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God
 - III) V40-41 BUT PETER: Put them all out and knelt down and prayed
 - a) PETER: Put them all out (Reminds us of what Jesus had done for Jairus' daughter)
 - 1) Mk 5:40-42 But they laughed at him. *After he put them all out*, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.
 - IV) NOTICE: He knelt down and prayed, which reminds us of another earlier prayer
 - a) Ac 4:30 Stretch out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus
 - V) PETER SHOWED: Complete dependence on God
 - a) He prayed, and he spoke to Tabitha's dead body with a faith filled voice
 - 1) God raised her from the dead, and the believers were filled with joy
 - VI) V42 AND: It became known throughout all Joppa and many believed on the Lord
 - a) God's purpose is now made clear: he intends to draw people to faith in Jesus
 - 1) This confirmed the fact that the gospel is true and many are being saved
 - VII) V43 SO IT WAS: That he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner
 - a) God is making Simon stretch, as he breaks down taboos he has had over a lifetime
 - 1) FIRST: He ministered to Samaritans and now he is dwelling with a tanner
 - VIII) THIS WAS TABOO: Because tanners were considered unclean: worked with dead animals

a) Lev. 11:31 Of all those that move along the ground, these are unclean for you. Whoever touches them when they are dead will be unclean till evening.

IX) HERE HE IS: Dwelling with Simon

a) In dwelling with him, he is stretching and becoming a man who can minister

1) He is learning what true freedom in Jesus, is