

The Healing of Aeneas
Acts 9:32-35.
Sunday morning, April 25, 2010.

I. Peter travels freely.

- A. Peter travels through all parts of the country seemingly unhampered.
- B. Note in this again the wisdom of God with regards to ordering the providential circumstances.
 - 1. The persecution had scattered and multiplied the church greatly. Churches were now established throughout all Judea, Samaria and Galilee.
 - 2. Those churches doubtless were in great need of being organized and established; elders need to be established in them. Guidance needs to be given them. Growth and development have to be facilitated.
 - 3. Again the Lord provides. The dark cloud of persecution lifts, and Peter is freely able to travel the countryside, visiting and establishing these fledgling newborn churches.
 - 4. Here we ought to remember the words of the Lord Jesus Christ to Peter when the Lord restored Peter to fellowship with Himself following Peter's denial, and the Lord's resurrection. "Peter if you love Me, then feed My lambs, tend My sheep, and feed My sheep." John 21:15-17.
This calling and work finds perhaps its fullest expression in this, what we might call Peter's missionary journey.
 - 5. Remember here as well the words recorded in Ephesians 2:10; the good works which God has before ordained that we might walk in them.
 - The Lord prepared a vessel; a chosen instrument, in the Person of Peter; a minister and missionary to the Jews.
 - And the Lord prepared an unlikely instrument leading to the founding of all these churches; persecution.
 - Then the Lord prepares a peace and He brings Peter and these fledgling churches together all over the Jewish landscape. The holy Spirit no doubt reminding Peter of what the Lord had said: "Peter, if you love Me, then take care of My sheep."

Application:

The God who so perfectly orchestrated these providential circumstances in the life of the Church, and in the life of Peter, is orchestrating the circumstances of our world today as well, and also the circumstances of your life. This is how He guarantees that all things will (must) work together for the good of those who love Him, and are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28. So why are we so easily alarmed and disquieted; why do we so easily murmur and complain; why are we so easily moved to doubt and unbelief; why do we so quickly become angry? Learn to say to your soul as the Psalmist did to His: "Return to your rest O my soul." Psalm 116:7.

II. Peter comes to Lydda.

- A. On his travels through the countryside of Israel Peter comes to Lydda, a city in the plain of Sharon, about five miles inland from the port city of Joppa.

- B. As in so many other places a body of disciples had already been formed here. Among them a man named Aeneas who had been paralyzed for eight years.
- C. Peter, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit discerns that the Lord would heal Aeneas, and he speaks to him the words recorded in our text, “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you; arise, and make your bed.”
Aeneas obeys; the limp legs whose muscle mass had wasted away, suddenly receive strength and are able to support the weight of his body. No physical therapy is needed, nor a learning to walk again.
- D. It turns into an evangelistic opportunity, for all who saw Aeneas turn to the Lord.
- E. The account of Aeneas, and the one following about Tabitha or Dorcas, show us that the supernatural gifts of healing were not as widespread or commonplace during these times as is sometimes thought. Peter must come before these healings can take place, the Lord establishing apostolic authority in these newborn churches in this way.
- F. Striking in this account is the absence of Peter asserting or inserting anything of his own importance in this event. This comes out in two ways:
 1. The simple announcement that he makes: “Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you.” Not “The Lord told me to tell you...” or “The Lord has shown me...” or “By faith I discern that...”
 2. It comes out in the results. People flock to the Lord Jesus Christ. They do not flock to Peter.

Application:

Never insert your own importance in the work the Lord allows you to do in His name. Be warned about this because the desire for personal greatness and importance is ever present with us. Two evils result from this:

1. It robs God of His glory; at best God will have to share His glory with you.
2. It makes the Lord's people look, depend, and trust in you instead of in the Lord.

Many a servant of the Lord has been allowed to stumble and fall, the Lord making this point: That the good work that was accomplished was not the work of a man, but it was the work of God's goodness and grace. Many a servant of the Lord has been beat up by “thorns in the flesh,” and “messengers of Satan” to keep him from inserting his own importance into the work God by His grace allows him to do. 2 Cor. 12:7-10.

III. Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you.

- A. The echo of these words needs to come home to our own hearts.
- B. All physical sickness is a type of the sickness and paralysis of our souls which is the Lord's primary concern. The outward man the Lord allows to perish, but the inward man He renews day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16.
- C. Whatever the evil is that is eating away at your soul (such as pornography; anger and bitterness; the darkness of doubt and unbelief; greed for power, pleasure, position and possessions) these words are brought to you today: “Jesus the Christ heals you.” In the context of the body of Christ's people, and by the ordinary use of means Jesus is bringing healing to you. Believe this word and “arise and make your bed.” That is, start to act in accordance with this truth. Be like Aeneas who “arose immediately.”