

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for July 21, 2013

The Restoring of Aeneas
Acts 9:32-35

Acts 9:32 begins the final section of this book as the church expanded its mission beyond the land of Judea and moved toward the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8).

1. The report of Aeneas (9:32-33)

Aeneas lived in Lydda about twenty-five miles northwest of Jerusalem on the way to Joppa (Acts 9:36) and Caesarea (Acts 10:1).

Lydda is the present site of the main Israeli airport.

Aeneas was paralyzed and bedridden for eight years.

Peter's visit to the saints at Lydda implies that Aeneas was a believer in Christ.

2. The restoration of Aeneas (9:34)

Peter was given the power to heal by Jesus (Luke 9:1).

Fitting the New Testament pattern, this healing:

Was immediate

Was observable

Was special

Was certain

Was convincing

Was complete

Was unconditional

Was documented

This miracle parallels the healings of Jesus as Acts 9:34 uses phrasing similar to the accounts of two other paralyzed men in Matthew 9:6 and John 5:8.

This miracle, along with the raising of Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:40), demonstrates the continuing authority of God through the ministry of Peter as the message of Christ spreads to the Gentiles.

3. The response of the people (9:35)

Sharon is the coastal plain that stretches from Lydda toward Mt. Carmel and includes Caesarea, which will be the setting for Acts 10.

The report of the response of those at Lydda and Sharon is a general statement intended to make a contrast with the response that followed the earlier healing of the lame man in Acts 3-4.

As the gospel moved beyond Jerusalem to increasingly Gentile areas, there was an increasing willingness to respond to the truth of Christ.

There is a strong connection between miracles and preaching the gospel in the book of Acts. These biblical miracles support the communication of God's revelation.

The people turned to the Lord, because they saw what God had done.

As others see what the Lord has done in our lives, they will have the opportunity to respond for themselves.

Just as the paralyzed man was able to move, the gospel is now moving toward the ends of the earth.

May we who have life in Christ arise and actively participate in the task of bringing God's word to a dying world.