

Bible Study for May 2 - 8, 2022

Read: Acts 9:32-43

Notes:

For the rest of this month, we are going to be looking at lessons from the book of Acts. Personally, I find Acts to be one of the most exciting books of the Bible as it is a bridge between the gospels and the epistles by continuing the gospel story after the resurrection, including Jesus' ascension. But that's not all! It then goes on to describe life in the early church, how the apostles managed without Jesus physical presence in their midst, as well as the growth of the church at large with the assistance of the Holy Spirit. Acts sets the stage for the letters we read later in the Bible, giving us some background and a fuller sense of the messages contained in the epistle letters. In short, the book of Acts offers us a continual reminder that the church is never to be stagnant in spite of challenges that are to be faced.

The main characters in the book of Acts are Peter and Paul. In the first 12 chapters the focus is on Peter and his leadership in ministry to the Jews, but in chapter 13 we hear of the conversion of Paul and continue onward with his ministry to the Gentiles. It is believed that the author, Luke (of the gospel according to Luke) travelled extensively with Paul, while at the same time gathering information about what had been happening in Jerusalem.

In this lesson, we come across Dorcas, a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Here kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

Questions to Ponder:

What does it take to get you out of bed in the morning?

What do you think is the purpose of these signs and wonders?

Although Peter had healed many people, he had never raised anyone from the dead. What might he be feeling as he goes to Tabitha's home?

Which of Jesus' miracles do these two incidents remind you of?

How have you experienced God's healing in your life? What resulted from this healing for others?

In what ways might you be able to use your faith to heal others?