

Acts of the Apostles
24 – Please Come without Delay
Acts 9.32-43

Tour Guide – showing the basics but dropping knowledge

Aeneas

- **Do you see your coming and going as opportunities for ministry?**
- Can you see the opportunities around you? Do you look up, walk slowly, ask good questions?
- Accidental nature of Aeneas' issue
- Healing – power *and* compassion (Matt 9.35-37)
- Make your bed – no longer defined by this – it was your story but isn't now
- Free or fumbling?
 - We are not really convinced of healing
 - Don't know how to live without it
 - Possibly like the attention (become identity, belonging)
- He's not halfway powerful – the difficult parts of our stories are those where God's power shows most brightly (powerful enough to see me through it but not to live forward from it)
- **We get to walk out what Jesus has worked in us**
- This is the only part that is magnetic to those around us – living proof of his liberation

Dorcas

- Known for good works
- **Nobody get a pass on the judgment upon humanity** – death (Rom. 5.12, Heb. 9.27)
- “Please come without delay” – they knew Peter was available and Jesus was powerful and those two spent time together
- Peter does what he has seen Jesus do – put them out, pray, say what Jesus said
 - Only after prayer did he express himself in the situation (if the building is on fire...pray as you leave, otherwise pray first)
- **The picture of Christianity – death to life**
- “It became known...” – miracles are for the message

Two Miracles

One reminding us to walk out what Jesus has worked in us

One reminding us that Jesus has died to give us life

Questions for Discussion:

1. When was the last time you saw what you would identify as a ministry opportunity? What was your response to it? What do you think helps you see ministry opportunities in your “coming and going?” What do you think hinders you?
2. Read Matthew 9.35-38. How does Peter’s interaction to Aeneas correspond to the passage in Matthew?
3. In the sermon, I labored to make the point that Jesus not only healed Aeneas but wanted him to walk it out. How have you seen others receive something (healing, etc.) but not walk it out? What did that look like? If you had an area of your life where you were struggling to walk out what Jesus had worked in you, what would it be?
4. Reread the two passages (Romans 5.12 and Hebrews 9.27). Why is it so important to live with the reality of death and judgment? How does that propel us in our own spiritual growth? In ministry to others? In what ways do we (as Christians and as humans) try to avoid these kinds of subjects?
5. In the sermon, we argued that Christianity isn’t about bad to good but death to life. Read Colossians 2.13-15. How is this a summary of Christianity’s message of death to life? How does the Gospel (the Good News of Jesus) compare to other religious messages you might have heard?