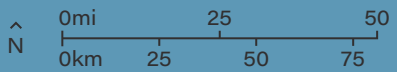




# The Word

*one to one*





---> Peter's journey

Mediterranean Sea

Sea of Galilee

Sharon

River Jordan

JOPPA

LYDDA

JERUSALEM

Dead Sea

# Episode 22



# Jesus' lead apostle

ACTS 9:32-43

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*In the previous episode:  
Saul has a new boss.*

*In this episode:  
In Jesus' footsteps.*



ACTS 9:32-43

<sup>32</sup> As Peter travelled about the country,  
he went to visit the Lord's people who  
lived in Lydda.



**The Lord's people:** another way of describing  
Christians; people who belong to the Lord Jesus.



## Back to Peter

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We're starting a new section of Acts and the focus is back on Peter, the lead apostle.

This section of Acts is when the good news about Jesus starts to reach Gentiles, other nations with no connection at all to the Jewish faith. In fact, Jews had grown up being told to have nothing to do with Gentiles!

A very big shift is coming and Peter will be at the heart of it. We need to be certain that Peter is God's apostle, doing God's work.

As we catch up with Peter, what is he doing?

- He is travelling, visiting different Christians, who lived some way outside Jerusalem.

<sup>33</sup> There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralysed and had been bedridden for eight years.

<sup>34</sup> ‘Aeneas,’ Peter said to him, ‘Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.’ Immediately Aeneas got up.

<sup>35</sup> All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

## A paralysed man... healed

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What is Aeneas' situation?

- It's bad. He's been unable to walk, or even get out of bed, for eight years. **(v. 33)**

What does Peter do for him?

- Peter simply says that Jesus has healed him and commands him to 'Get up!' **(v. 34)**
- Immediately, Aeneas can stand. He's well again. No physiotherapy, no surgery – this is instant, total healing.

The people in Lydda and the surrounding area know Aeneas. No one could deny that this was a complete miracle.

No wonder they turn to Jesus... in other words, they become Christians! **(v. 35)**

<sup>36</sup> In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor.

<sup>37</sup> About that time she became ill and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.

<sup>38</sup> Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, 'Please come at once!'

<sup>39</sup> Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood round him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.



## A dead woman... raised

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Our next miracle takes place in Joppa, about eight miles from Lydda.

Why do the Christians in Joppa want Peter to come so urgently?

- One of them, a godly woman called Tabitha (also known as Dorcas), has died. **(v. 37)**

Notice that she's been washed and the body laid out. Tabitha is definitely dead.

Her death has had a huge impact on this Christian community. **(v. 39)**

<sup>40</sup> Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning towards the dead woman, he said, 'Tabitha, get up.' She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up.

<sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive.

**Get up:** Peter's command to Aeneas and Tabitha is the same: 'Get up!' It is hard to get the force of what he says in English, but the words used in the original Greek for 'get up' are the same as 'rise from the dead'. Jesus' power is clearly at work.

But what can Peter do for a dead woman?

- He sends everyone away, then kneels down and prays for God to do a miracle. **(v. 40)**
- Turning to the dead woman, just like with Aeneas, he simply tells her to get up... and she does!

This is stunning! The dead woman is raised to life. This is something only God can do.

Notice that Peter especially calls for the widows. The people who most grieved for Tabitha are the first to see that she is alive again. Just imagine their joy! **(v. 41)**

*The Lord Jesus is powerfully  
at work through Peter.*