

PRAY

[Act 9:32-43 ESV]

32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came

(lou-da)

down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.

Anyone remember Peter:

[Luke 22:33-34 ESV]

33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."

34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."

Peter has come a long way since then, we see in:

[Act 5:29, 40-41 ESV]

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. ...

40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.

Now up until this time, it seems the apostles had mostly stayed in Jerusalem, we do see in:

[Act 8:14-15, 25 ESV]

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,

15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,
25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

There is no mention of the apostles doing any signs or miracles outside of Jerusalem, the disciple Phillip had done wonders in Samaria:

[Act 8:5-7 ESV]

5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.

6 And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed.

But up until now the Apostles had mostly done their thing in Jerusalem:

[Act 5:12-16 ESV]

12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.

14 And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.

Imagine how strong the spirit of the Lord must be in you, if even your shadow might heal

16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

The people were bring the sick and afflicted to the apostils, now Peter is up and about in the countryside.

I – Nay - As

33 There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed.

34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose.

This has a familiar phrasing

Jesus in Capernaum

[Mark 2:11-12 ESV]

11 "I say to you, rise, pick up your bed, and go home."

12 And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Peter didn't say I healed you, Peter gave the glory to where it was due... To God
Not only did Peter give the credit to God, he also emulated Jesus in his wording.

Acts 9:35

35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

All the residents, not some, not many, all the residents turned to the lord
How wonderful is that, I tried to find out how many resided in Lydda in Peters time, but had no luck with that, be it a hundred or a thousand, or many thousands, I ask you, what is one soul turning to Jesus worth?

Returning to our text Acts 9

36 Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.

The word used here for disciple in the Greek (mā-thā'-trē-ä) is only used in this verse, it means a female disciple

37 In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room.

38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay."

39 So Peter rose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping and showing tunics and other garments that Dorcas made while she was with them.

40 But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

Peter again takes his "cue" from the Lord Jesus

[Mark 5:37-41 ESV]

37 And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter and James and John the brother of James.

38 They came to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and Jesus saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly.

39 And when he had entered, he said to them, "Why are you making a commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but sleeping."

40 And they laughed at him. But he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was.

41 Taking her by the hand he said to her, "Talitha cumi," which means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise."

Now Jesus being Lord and all authority being granted to him didn't "need" to pray like Peter but I am sure you see the similarities

Please remember that these folks and others like Lazarus, they were resuscitated from death, they still ended up dying again and their flesh was corrupt, unlike Jesus being resurrected.

[Act 13:35-37 ESV]

35 Therefore he says also in another psalm, "'You will not let your Holy One see corruption.'

36 For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers and saw corruption,

37 but he whom God raised up did not see corruption."

Let's finish with the verses and then I will get to what I believe the lesson we should be taking away from these passages.

Acts 9

42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

43 And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner.

This time the miracle became known throughout all Joppa, but only many believed, not all, what a shame for the ones that didn't.

And he stayed with one Simon, a tanner, tanners were considered very unclean, they had to build their houses outside the city.

Now for the lesson:

What I think the Lord wants to show us here, through the actions of Peter, is that we also should try to accept Jesus as our role model

Peter doesn't strut around and say, dude, my shadow could have healed you, Peter gives the glory where it is due, to Jesus.

I am amazed sometimes by our thought process, myself included, then things are not maybe not going so well, its why GOD, why are you doing this to me, but when everything is going our way, we are like, oh yeah, I did that, that was all me.

Peter went from, I will follow you even to death, and didn't, to the Lord Jesus healed you, to let me kneel and pray, and also I will hang out with a person, others consider unclean.

Jesus's actions show Peter and us, how our actions should be: a few examples,

Jesus really didn't need to pray, but he did:

[John 11:41-42 ESV]

41 So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

We do need to pray, but do we really pray as often as we should?

By now I am sure you are saying, something to the effect of, "But that was Jesus and Peter, I am just flesh"

Here is something to reflect on, have you ever been angry? I have, that may not be a surprise, how about this fact, Jesus got angry also.

For example:

[Mark 3:4-5 ESV]

4 And he said to them, "Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent.

5 And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Or, the example everyone knows:

[John 2:14-15 ESV]

14 In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there.

15 And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

He even showed anger to Peter

[Matthew 16:22-23 ESV]

22 And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you."

23 But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

And there is the lesson for us, it is alright to have anger about the things of GOD, not about the things of man.

I couldn't find anywhere where it said Jesus was angry about the following:

What to have for dinner

The car that cut me off on the freeway

The darn democrats / republicans

A parking spot

All the little things that happen throughout the day / week / month / year

If it isn't an affront to GOD (Really an affront to GOD, not just you wanting to claim that so you can justify your anger)

Or something that affects your salvation, why waste your time, that is time taken away from time you could be spending with GOD, don't get angry, pray, pray for those whom you wanted to be angry with, praise and thank GOD for the time you get to spend with him.

Paul said:

[Ephesians 4:26-27 ESV]

26 Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

27 and give no opportunity to the devil.

Try to be more like Jesus in every way

PRAY