

SERIES: **THE MOVEMENT- A journey through the astonishing book of Acts**

TEXT: **Acts 9:32-43 // Kingdom Glimpses**

All of us have looked at our world and thought-

“The world is broken; it’s a messed-up place”

What happened? Surely this was not God’s design for His creation!

Christianity has come to know the source of all the brokenness, pain, hurt and evil in the world, as **“The Fall”** Genesis 3 and the **infection** of sin into God’s previously pure creation (explain)

THE TENSION- Every single one of us has experienced the repercussions of ‘The Fall’

You may not be identifying it as so

Throughout human history people have tried to resolve the damage of sin in various ways:

Education, and philosophy and self-improvement, new house, new community, new car, spouse, charity.

And somethings may work, for some time to dull the brokenness, but these things can only take us so far.

It’s duct tape on an earthquake condemned structure,
because at the end of the day, the pain, hurt and evil are still eminent.

We cope with the damage sin caused by lumping it all together into some generic, less personal contemplation of it because when we zoom in to the misery it is too horrendous to consider that we are all affected by it; babies, children, women and men.

The bible takes no such efforts to dull the reality, but instead, tackles this damage/ sabotage head on, Here’s why; it reminds us-

Sin will not have the last say

If the world is indeed broken by sin, it means that at some point it was whole and free of sin;

Furthermore, more the biblical implication is there that at some point also,
God Himself will restore what has broken of His

The 2 stories today are an example that the bible doesn’t bundle sin and brokenness into some generic concept, but rather it zooms in, to individuals dealing with it

These two stories are really setting up the next 2 chapters, which we’ll cover next week, however, there is deep truths we can grasp here- they are stories of redemption, of healing, of God addressing, not dismissing the hurt

RECAP:

This thing they referred to as “The Way” was going from an esoteric sect of Judaism to a worldwide movement

Let’s go through these stories (not long), I’ll make a few interesting observations along the way,

Then, at the end we’ll pull out some application/ truth nuggets we can go out and face the world with

As Peter was traveling from place to place, he also came down to the saints who lived in Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. ³⁴ Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and make your bed," and immediately he got up. ³⁵ So all who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

³⁶ In Joppa

Joppa- *From this port, Jonah fled God's call to reach the nations, while Peter embraced it (next week)

*From this port the cedar wood for Solomon's temple came in to and passed through to Jerusalem, now the people aren't watching building materials for the temple pass through, those here that believe become the temple of God

*Andromeda's rock: In Greek mythology, Perseus saved the princess Andromeda that was chained to a rock in the sea- he killed the sea beast sent by Poseidon using medusas head and the remaining reef is said to be the remains of the beast turned to stone- that may be myth, but the reality is that at this town, God sent Peter 'the Rock' to spread news that Jesus had defeated our greatest foe

there was a disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. (If my name was Dorcas id go by Tabitha also) She was always doing good works and acts of charity.

Gift of 'help' 1 Corinthians 12:28

Sounds good I don't see why anything bad would ever happen to her

³⁷ In those days she became sick and died. After washing her, they placed her in a room upstairs. ³⁸ Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples heard that Peter was there and sent two men to him who begged him, "Don't delay in coming with us."

Reminiscent of Mark 2:5; the faith of others

³⁹ So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they led him to the room upstairs. And all the widows approached him, weeping and showing him the robes and clothes that Dorcas had made while she was with them. When you pass, **what will people have to point to about your life/** legacy?

⁴⁰ Then Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt down, prayed, and turning toward the body said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. ⁴¹ He gave her his hand and helped her stand up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. ⁴² This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

V35 & 42 both show the purpose of these miracles/signs- **to point people who did not know Jesus to His saving power**

Whether you believe miracles still exists or not, we should all agree, that when miracles happen (past/present), they must point to Jesus

These miracles closely resemble the work of Christ in Mark 2, 5 , Luke 7, etc.

Luke8:40-55 a man, leader of a synagogue, comes begging Jesus to go save his daughter;

On the way, the crowds are tight and sick woman (woman who was sick, not a pervert) who touches his garment and gets healed!

V49-55 While He was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house, saying, "Your daughter is dead. Don't bother the Teacher anymore."

⁵⁰ When Jesus heard it, He answered him, "Don't be afraid. Only believe, and she will be made well." ⁵¹ After He came to the house, He let no one enter with Him except Peter, John, James, and the child's father and mother. ⁵² Everyone was crying and mourning for her. But He said, "Stop crying, for she is not dead but asleep."

⁵³ They started laughing at Him, because they knew she was dead. ⁵⁴ So He took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!"

Mark 5 tells us the Aramaic phrase Jesus used: "*Talitha koum!*"-

Peter here in Acts 9 would have said "*Tabitha koum!*"

You gotta love the detail and complexity found in scripture!

⁵⁵ Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then He gave orders that she be given something to eat.

The girls father, Tabitha's friends, person after person had to make a choice- Believe

Do you BELIEVE Jesus can do it?

Do you trust Him if He doesn't?

⁴³ And Peter stayed on many days in Joppa with Simon, a leather tanner.

Leather tanners were considered unclean in Jewish culture- this is an important detail to keep in mind for next week

Okay lets tease some more truths from this text- I got 5 on it (not like that children of the 90's)

Even "good" people suffer the results of the fall

Sin has touched us all- even Tabitha as good as she was

Don't be like Job's friends (book of Job) who thought "*obviously you had it coming, what did you do?*"

I think of my own mother, this week I was missing again my friend, Marcos' brother, Victor

All of us are infected, as good as you may be

Death is real but not final

When we breathe our last here, we don't disappear into oblivion- death is a doorway- are you ready for what's on the other side?

2 Corinthians 5:8 absent from the body present with the Lord-

will you be glad to see Him or will it be the worst day of your life?

Jesus rules over disease and death, even now.

The writer of Acts is Luke, a doctor- he's practically saying, there is NO medical explanation for these things other than Jesus can do it!

Did you notice that neither of the 2 main characters ASKED to be healed?

Christ has power over death, the great enemy of humanity and He's not dependent on you

Luke 7:11-17 he tells a story of a funeral- death going out, life coming in

1 Corinthians 15:55 oh death where is your victory, oh death where is your sting?

You may be, where you would rather not be, because there may be someone who needs you there

Tabitha was revived for the sake of others, not for herself! (she was in the presence of the Lord! 2 Cor. 5:8)

Philippians 1:23-25 NLT I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴ But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. ²⁵ Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith.

Complain a little less and look around a little more-

who could benefit from what God has designed you to be, the gifts he's placed in you?

The best investment of your life is in the greatest commandment!

God is always drawing people to Himself

All of these miracles were ultimately not for those healed or revived- they would end up dying

The main recipients were those who would believe the gospel because of them

God's saving of a sinner, whether a notorious sinner or a more respectable sinner, is always a miracle, no less than His healing a paralyzed man or raising a dead woman to life.

He wants to use us to bring that miraculous cure to the sinners we meet.

We need to remember that the gospel is nothing less than the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes ([Rom. 1:16](#)).

These miracles provide glimpses of what the kingdom of Jesus is like

MAIN TAKEAWAY- What sin sabotaged, the Redeemer will restore

Given all we discussed,

CHALLENGE- What is my immediate next step in following Jesus?

BULLPEN:

V41 touched her- meant she was alive

V43 no longer under OT purity laws

At a missions conference in 1986, Stuart Briscoe said, "All that's being done in evangelical Christianity in America can be done with good equipment, modern media, and a few gifted men. Very little that is happening in the church is explainable solely on the basis of God's activity and authority." His words should make us pause and ask, "Is that true in our church? Is it true in my life personally?"

Is there anything in my life (church) that can only be explained by God's activity and power?"

Sin disrupted God's creation, the Gospel disrupted satan's disruption