

Surrey Chapel Fellowship Group Notes 12th/ 13th February 2014

Acts 9: 32-43

Gospel to Judea

Background

Following the rising levels of persecution in Jerusalem, many believers, including some of the apostles, scatter to the surrounding areas. Peter travels north west from Jerusalem to Lydda and on to Joppa on the coast. In these towns he meets up with local believers.

Healing

The healing of Aeneas has many parallels with Jesus healing of the paralysed man in Luke 5:17-26. The commands given by Jesus in Luke 5:24 and Peter in Acts 9:34 are very similar. It is likely that Luke intended the similarities to be noticed; which reinforces the point made in the very first verse of Acts.

v.34 Peter is crystal clear about where the healing power comes from.

Incidentally Lydda was the legendary locale of Saint George's slaying of the dragon and his later martyrdom in AD 303.

Raised from the Dead

When Peter is asked to go to Joppa in v.38, what were the disciples expecting him to do? Compare this account with Jesus raising of Jairus's daughter in Mark 5.

Purpose

What was the purpose of these two events? On one level they show that Peter had compassion on those in need and did what he could to help. There was however a greater purpose. See v.35 & 42.

Share

Share any examples you know of where God has healed someone. How was this used for God's wider purposes?

Prayer

Pray for those in or known to your group who are in need of healing.

Pray that the testimony of those who have been healed and those who have faithfully persevered in suffering, will point people to Christ.

Pray for Christians facing severe persecution. - That they would remain faithful and that the persecution would cease. See the link below for further inspiration.

<http://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/documents/WorldWatchMap.pdf>