



DIGGING DEEPER

Acts 9:32-43 – The Power of Jesus

PLEASE READ – Acts 9:32-43

GETTING STARTED

Perhaps we feel that Acts 9:31 could have acted as a wonderful conclusion to the book. Everything seems to be rosy. But why must the story continue? Have all the boxes (of Acts 1:8) been ticked?

(How do “the fear of the Lord” and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit (v31) balance out, rather than contradict one another?)

QUESTION: does the Church need spectacular miracles nowadays?

How full an answer do you feel Hebrews 2:3-4 gives you to this question?

Jesus did far more miracles of healing, particularly, than are recorded in Acts. What do you make of the lack of response to all of Jesus’ works?

But if miracles *aren’t* needed ... what is?

1) THE MIRACLE OF CHURCHES (v32)

How “miraculous” does it feel to be part of a church? What sort of supernatural things are needed for just normal church life and church growth?

2) THE MIRACLE OF THE HEALING OF AENEAS (vv33-35)

Compare the healing that Jesus himself performed, recorded in Luke 5:17-26. What's similar, and what's different?

Why does Peter stress that *he* is not the one doing the healing here?

3) THE MIRACLE OF THE RAISING OF TABITHA (vv36-42)

Compare the miracle that Jesus himself performed, recorded in Mark 5:22-23, 35-43. What's similar, and what's different?

So, once again, who's doing the healing?

4) THE MIRACLE OF "GROWTH IN GRACE" (v43)

Remind yourself why Peter's stay in the house of a *tanner* would be so surprising.

In what ways is Peter being taken out of his comfort zone?

What else is coming that will take him *even further* out of his comfort zone (ch 10)?

How far are *we* prepared to venture out of *our* comfort zones for the sake of Jesus?

In our church, how are we going to live out the following words of Paul? And ...

... how will this demonstrate the power of Jesus?

Romans 12:16: Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position [or: *be willing to do menial work*]. Do not be conceited.