

The Book of Acts
Acts 9:32-10:16

Introduction

Sometimes we need to see the big picture, or the larger context around what is happening to us. Other times it's important to be present in the small things. Luke's story is a bit of a rollercoaster. We just had the earth-shattering event of Saul's conversion. By the end of the passage, we'll go big again with a vision from God that changes the course of Peter's life. Yet, we start small with Peter going around Israel and ministering to the early believers.

Discussion Questions

1. Some people are more big picture people, while others tend to be more "grassroots" in their thinking? Where would you classify yourself on this scale and why?
2. Read Acts 9:32-42. Why is it important for us to see Peter doing this kind of work within the fellowship of believers? Miracles are first and foremost "signs" that God uses to point to something. Has what these miracles point to changed from earlier miracles in Acts?
3. There is mystery here to how God works. Why heal Aeneas and not everyone in that community? Did Dorcas deserve to be brought back from the dead more than other believers who have passed? How do you hold the tension that exists when thinking about this?
4. We are really starting to see the importance of the different roles within the church. We see big picture roles like apostles and evangelists. But also, smaller acts of service like encouragement and mending clothes. Why are both the big and small picture important to the life of the church?
5. Read Acts 10:1-16. We've got a case of double vision here! Cornelius has a fairly straightforward vision, yet it's surprising he's getting one at all as a Gentile. Peter's vision is more abstract and he, unlike us, had to figure out what it meant. Put yourself in the story and talk about how you would have experienced and reacted to these two visions.
6. Cornelius worshipped the one true God from a place of ignorance. He didn't know a crumb of what Saul knew, or even the Apostles, and yet God honors him and seeks him out. What does this say about the idea of "prerequisites" to becoming a Christian?
7. Peter's reaction each time the sail is lowered is a good indicator of his own prejudices. But what God says is clean cannot be unclean. How does this tension still play out in our faith communities?

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