

# Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

## "THE CONTINUING WORK OF JESUS"

**Big Idea:** The mighty works through Christ display God's merciful care so that the message of Christ continually advances.

### Discuss

If we were students trying to maintain a list of all the characters and what they are up to in the book of Acts, we would certainly be busy after reading this passage. Peter reappears, no longer in Jerusalem but "traveling about the country," and we're introduced to two new people, a paralytic named Aeneas, and a woman named Tabitha or Dorcas. "Always doing good and helping the poor," she is the only woman in the New Testament who is specifically identified as a disciple. And then at the end, up pops a hospitable tanner named Simon, who was apparently willing to have a houseguest for a considerable amount of time.

- 1) In 1 Corinthians 1:26-27, Paul reminds the Corinthians to "think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." Paul ends the passage with this conclusion: "Therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.'" (v. 31)
  - Was Peter naturally gifted or supernaturally equipped to do the work he did as an apostle in the early days of the church? In what ways had he been prepared to do the work that he did after Pentecost?
  - Does God use the natural abilities and inclinations of his followers when calling them to different avenues of service? Or does he ask them to do work that is seemingly beyond their gifts and abilities? Or does God do both?
  - How can we most glorify God in all the work that we do? ("Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." Ps. 115:1)
- 2) The miracles accomplished through Peter very much followed the pattern of Jesus' miracles during his earthly ministry. As many commentators have pointed out, Peter's actions and words echoed those of his Master. (To compare, see Mark 2:1-12 and Mark 5:35-43.)
  - How can we today be imitators of Christ?
- 3) It is amazing to consider how Christianity was already spreading even in these early days of the church beyond Jerusalem into Ethiopia, Samaria, Damascus, and Turkey.
  - What specific things were happening that enabled God's Kingdom to flourish?
  - What did flourishing Kingdom life look like in the early church? What were believers (and not just the apostles) doing?

DATE: March 8, 2020

SPEAKER: Chad/Brian

SERIES: Acts

PASSAGE: Acts 9:32-43

### Pray

*"Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord." Acts 9:31*

Lord Jesus,

It is so strengthening and encouraging to us to read about your provision for your church as it began to expand from Jerusalem into Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. We praise and thank you for all that you are and all that you have done for your church.

We're thankful, too, for the powerful authenticating work that was done through your disciples. We're thankful that time and again you not only blessed and healed through servants like Peter, you also showed the world that you were still at work advancing your kingdom. You were merciful in the early days of the church, and we trust and rest in your mercy now. We pray in your name. Amen.

#### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Christian Institute in China  
Robbie and Lydia Sweet's Ministry to Missionary Kids