DISCUSS



IF YOU HAD A COMPLETELY FREE DAY TO DO SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE ELSE, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO DO?


MAYBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH
EVERYONE
EVERYWHERE
Following the book we call ‘Acts’

EVERYONE EVERYWHERE

PART NINETEEN

MATT WALMSLEY

15 NOVEMBER 2026

As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord’s people who lived in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralysed and had been bedridden for eight years. “Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

ACTS 9V32-42

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!” Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

ACTS 9V32-42

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, “Tabitha, get up.” She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

ACTS 9V32-42

Mercy

Miracles

Mission

MIRACLES?

While miracles happen still happen today, they seem particularly ‘concentrated’ around the initial proclamation of Jesus to the world.

MIRACLES?

Because the world is broken, physical suffering is normal for now. But in Jesus' coming Kingdom, sickness and death are permanently defeated.

MIRACLES?

Miracles are best understood as previews rather than finalities.

MIRACLES?

While some people are healed here and now, with Jesus everyone *will* one day be healed.

MIRACLES?

The greatest miracle we can see here and now is people placing their lives in the hands of Jesus.

Mercy

Miracles

Mission

DISCUSS

BOTH STORIES (AENEAS AND TABITHA) END WITH PEOPLE TURNING TO JESUS. WHY DO YOU THINK LUKE IS MORE INTERESTED IN THIS OUTCOME THAN SIMPLY DESCRIBING THE MIRACLES THEMSELVES?

AENEAS AND TABITHA WERE BOTH PEOPLE WHO MIGHT EASILY HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED BY WIDER SOCIETY. WHY DO YOU THINK GOD SO OFTEN WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE WHO AREN'T CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT?

Mercy + Miracles - Mission = self indulgent

Mercy + Miracles - Mission
= self indulgent

Mercy + Mission - Miracles
= self empowered

Mercy + Miracles - Mission
= self indulgent

Mercy + Mission - Miracles
= self empowered

Mission + Miracles - Mercy
= self righteous

Mercy + Miracles - Mission
= self indulgent

Mercy + Mission - Miracles
= self empowered

Mission + Miracles - Mercy
= self righteous

Mercy + Miracles + Mission
= Kingdom of God

DISCUSS

THE TALK DESCRIBED MIRACLES AS PREVIEWS RATHER THAN FINALITIES. WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT MEANS? WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

‘THE GREATEST MIRACLE IS SOMEONE COMING INTO RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS’. DO YOU AGREE? WHY MIGHT THAT BE GREATER THAN PHYSICAL HEALING?

DISCUSS

WHY DOES THE CHURCH NEED TO TAKE HOLD OF ALL THREE ‘M’S? (MERCY - CONCERN FOR THE POOR. MIRACLES - RELYING ON GOD TO CHANGE HEARTS. MISSION - TAKING INITIATIVE TO REPRESENT JESUS TO THE WORLD.) WHAT IS LOST IF ONE IS MISSING?


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